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league boys

£18bn Bill Gates poised to become the richest man in history



BY QUENTIN LETTS IN NEW YORK AND MARK HENDERSON

BILL GATES, the American computer entrepreneur, last year doubled his fortune to \$29 billion (£18 billion) on the back of a stampeding bull market, setting him well on the road to becoming the greatest human wealth accumulator in the world —

Mr Gates, 41, the former computer nerd who in 1975 dropped out of college to co-found Microsoft, benefited from a rampaging American stock market which this week broke another of its own, vertigo-inducing records. To heady cheers around Wall Street, the Dow Jones industrial average broke through the 7,000

The latest rise on the New York Stock Exchange has been unprecedentedly swift. It took only four months for the Dow Jones — which did not break through the 3,000 barrier until 1991 - to rise 1,000

his wealth increase by \$42.5 million (£26.5 million) a day. When he gets up in the morning, he is effectively \$20 million richer than he was when

he went to sleep. Nor is he alone in such good fortune. Warren Buffet, the stock market player, "made" some \$7 billion last year, while Mr Gates's Microsoft partner, Paul Al-len, is \$6.4 billion better off than he was 12 months ago.

Phil Knight, of the sports shoe company Nike, gained \$3 billion; the Bronfman family coffers swelled by \$2.5 billion, and even small fry such as Michael Eisner, chief executive of Disney, has achieved paper gains of \$50 million in the last six weeks

The current cascade of gold in America can hardly be overstated

and the greatest beneficiaries, in their wealth, now outmatch the greatest plutocrats of history. The medieval Medicis never had it as good, nor did the empire builders of 19th century Britain or even earlier generations of American rich men. Along the smarter boulevards of

well off. Today that figure is generally put at \$85 million — and rising. Computer stock has been especially buoyant, going through what market analysts term a "super cycle", in which entrepreneurs can find themselves \$50 million richer over-

Manhattan last year, a man needed

\$50 million to be considered handily

night. When the great railroad builder Cornelius Vanderbilt died in 1877 he left a mere \$100 million -\$4.3 billion today — and the banker IP Morgan left only \$50 million when he died in 1913.

Their names still evoke unimaginable wealth, but in reality they were mere bootblacks compared to the likes of Messrs Gates and Buffet. Only the legendary oilman, John D Rockefeller, outstripped their wealth with a \$855 million fortune which would be worth a massive \$38 billion Continued on page 2, col 8

Leading article, page 23

LAWYERS acting for five men named by the Daily Mail as murderers of black teenager

Stephen Lawrence said yesterday they were outraged. But amid a furore over

allegations of trial by media, the Lawrence family wel-

comed the newspapers' deci-

sion to name those acquitted of his killing and its challenge to

them to sue if they are

Michael Howard, the Home

Secretary, said: "The Daily

Mail haven't done anything

against the law, unless of

course these men claim that

the piece has been defamatory

Outrage over

Lawrence case

'trial by media'

By Lin Jenkins, Richard Duce and Kathryn Knigh



were discharged during con mittal proceedings in Dece-ber 1993. Neil Acourt and M Knight were acquitted of muder and Mr Dobson w

acquitted of unlawful killing

Mr Gale said: "I think the is tabloid journalism at

Continued on page 2, co

Calculated risk, page Michael Beloff, page Leading article, page

Dead boy's fathe

worked for edito

Target the young, say NHS advisers

Birth control urged for 11-year-olds

By JEREMY LAURANCE, HEALTH CORRESPONDENT

should be offered free condoms and advice on sex to reduce Britain's high rate of teenage pregnancies, according to a key Government advisory body on health ees rch.

A 10 CO.

MOON TODAY

In the most authoritative review of research on sex among teenagers, including those below the age of consent. the controversial report by the NHS Centre for Reviews and Dissemination says that school-based sex education supported by clinics providing contraceptives is the best way of preventing teenage preg-

The disclosure provoked anger last night from Conservative MPs and organisations promoting the family.

Dame Angela Rumbold,
Tory MP for Mitcham and
Morden, said: "Surely these
groups have better things to
do than give this sort of advice. I am certain that this is a. matter for parents and it should be left to parents to decide the age at which these issues should be addressed. It is difficult to set an age but it certainly should not be at the

However, David Hart, general secretary of the National Association of Head Teachers, said: "Whether you should hand out free condoms to all secondary school pupils may be going a stage too far. But it is absolutely right that sex education should be given to pupils before they are sexually arrive from II onwards. If you can catch teenagers before they are sexually across they are sexually across the sexually across the sexually across the sexual they are sexually active you have a better chance of preventing pregnancies later on."

Over 55,000 copies of its latest Effective Health Care

CHILDREN as young as II Bulletin, a review of research which advises on best practice in controversial areas, will be distributed on Monday to doctors, NHS managers, local education authorities, social work agencies and family

laming clinics. The bulletin says that young people must be targeted before they become sexually active because it is much harder to change their sexual and contraceptive behaviour later. Research shows high levels of ignorance about sex and contraception, especially among boys aged 12 to 14.

A spokesman for the centre, which receives over £1 million in funding from the health department, said yesterday: "A lot of what happens sexually between young people is based on their ignorance. The younger sex education starts the better. That means children in the last year of primary school and the first year of secondary school should be

targeted."
Britain's pregnancy rate among 15-19 year olds is the highest in Europe. The Government has set a target under the "Health of the Nation" strategy of halving the preg-nancy rate in under 16-yearolds by 2000, but progress has been slow. Although the rate has fallen since 1990, in 1994 it was still 8.3 per 1,000, the

same level as a decade earlier. The health bulletin says that sexual abstinence programmes, which try to persuade young people to postpone sex until they are married, do not work. They neither delay sexual activity nor reduce pregnancy. How-ever, programmes which combine sex education with access to contraceptive services do

By ALAN HAMILTON

and other users who have outvoted the

objections of the local vicar.
The question of adult entertainment

was put to the vote after a ribald and

noisy evening of male amusement staged by the village football club disturbed parish councillors holding their monthly meeting in the next room. Such was the offensive distur-

bance that the Rev Robin Spittle, the

The bulletin's findings are

based on a review of 42 studies of teenage pregnancy, most conducted in America. Many other studies were considered and cted because they were of poor quality. The spokesman for the centre said its role was to inform decision makers of current research findings, not to make policy.

The bulletin points out that the cost of providing contraceptive and counselling services is far lower than the health and social costs of unplanned pregnancy.

"In order to attract young people to use services they must be well advertised, easily accessed outside school hours and - for under 16-year-olds confidential," it says.

Valerie Riches, director of Family and Youth Concern. said the reports conclusions were "quite alarming".

"Sex education should help young people to see the rea-sons why they should abstain from intercourse," she said. There is a danger in preaching to all and sundry when only a minority are doing it or would contemplate it."

She said the report's authors had been selective in the research they had chosen to highlight and were acting as a mouthpiece for the liberal wing of the health education lobby.

Why is it, if sex education is

so effective, that younger and younger people are engaging in sex?" she asked. "The age should be going up, not down. And why is there a massive increase in the use of the morning after pill? That shows sex education is

Their protests at the riotous laugh-ter and disgusting jokes filtering through the wall forced the village hall

management committee to ask all the

building's users whether they wanted the salacious evenings to continue. By

a majority, they did.

The WI, displaying an unexpected streak of libertarian democracy, voted

in favour. So did other hall users,

including the local branch of the

Royal British Legion, the Over 60s Club, the carpet bowls, outdoor bowls

and football clubs, the community



God Save the Queen will make a comeback at today's rugby game in Dublin

Irish reject minute's silence

By Nicholas Watt, Chief Ireland correspondent

PEACE campaigners reacted furiously after rugby's govern-ing body in Ireland rejected a request to hold a minute's silence before today's match against England in memory of the soldier murdered this week by the IRA.

The STOP peace group, which campaigns against ter-rorist violence, accused the Irish Rugby Football Union of throwing away a great opportunity to send a message of reconciliation from Dublin to

The group said that a tribute to Lance Bombardier Stephen Restorick would have been particularly poignant to-day because God Save the Queen will be played at Lansdowne Road for the first time before a rugby match.

WI backs the strippers in spite of vicar's protest

Chris Hudson, of the Dublin-based STOP group, said: The playing of the British anthem presented an ideal occasion to mark our respect for Stephen and to mark reconciliation between our two

STOP will pay its own tribute to L/Bdr Restorick this afternoon by flying a plane over Lansdowne Road trailing a banner with the words "Ceasefire Now". The group is also calling on people to leave flowers in memory of the murdered soldier outside the nearby British Embassy.

The Irish rugby union said last night that it had turned down STOP's request for a minute's silence because it did not want to enter the political

Wilkins, 56, the WI representative, said yesterday that 25 of her members

had voted to allow strip nights, and

only five had objected.
"We are certainly not staid in this

village. You won't catch us crocheting

or making marmalade. We are just a

bunch of friendly ladies who enjoy meeting up, but I don't think any of these members will want to go to these

evenings themselves," she said. Her

husband Graham, the chairman of the

village hall management committee,

said that the strip shows should continue, but it would be a condition

that clubs staging them should book the entire hall so that no other groups

would be there.

The row in Dublin came as the woman who witnessed the shooting of L/Bdr Restorick accepted an invitation from the soldier's parents to attend his funeral in England next week. Lorraine McElroy, who was injured by the same bullet which killed the soldier in Bessbrook, Co Armagh, will stay with Rita and John

Restorick in Peterborough. Mrs McElroy, 35, who is married with two young children and who will travel to England with her husband, said she was honoured to have been invited. She added: "Mrs Restorick asked me in the most heartfelt manner if I would please go to her son's

Councillor Clare Sullivan, an los

wich schoolteacher, who objected to

the decision to allow the shows, said

that she was nonetheless pleased that

the community had been consulted.

She was at the council meeting in the

next room last December when she

every word. The whole flavour of the

evening was men having a jolly good

time at the expense of women, who

The Shotley Rose Football Club, perpetrators of the original offence,

have now promised to hold a ladies

night, with plenty of offensive jokes

"From my seat I had to listen to

and the vicar were forced to leave.

Match preview, page 52

and that's a matter for them." Paul Dacre, the Editor of the However, legal experts and Doily Mail, has taken personal interest in the Lar Roger Gale, chairman of the Conservative backbench rence case. He employed St phen's father Neville arour media committee, said the a decade ago to do son plastering work on his hon newspaper had "acted as judge and jury". The five accused by the in Islington, north London. When the newspaper fir newspaper, Gary Dobson, 21, Luke Knight, 20, David Norris pursued the story Mr Lav rence said he telephoned N 20, and brothers Neil Acourt. Dacre to seek assurances the 21, and Jamie Acourt, 19, the case would be treate yesterday saw their lawyers. Mr Norris and Jamie Acourt

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vicar of Shotley, and one other councillor walked out of the meeting. LETTERS 23, 43 WEATHER _____26 OBITUARIES _____25 CROSSWORD COURT & SOCIAL

council and the drama group.

Mr Spittle said he objected to the strip shows and vulgar cornedians on moral grounds. However, Carol BUSINESS NEWS...... 27-45 WEEKEND MONEY..... 31-43

GARDENING: WEEKEND45 PROPERTY: WEEKEND....7-8 TRAVEL: WEEKEND 15-21

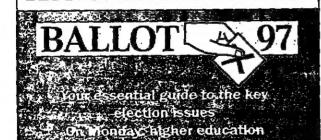
were excluded." she said.

STRIPPERS and blue comedians will be welcome in the village hall at Shotley, near Ipswich, Suffolk, thanks to support from the Women's Institute

The Times on the Internet







Online debate means election is virtually under way

WHITEHALL EDITOR

THE general election campaign was launched on the Internet in the House of Commons yesterday. Ministers. Labour frontbenchers and MPs have signed up to a new Politician's Forum which allows voters to question them from the comfort of their own homes.

The forum aims to bring a new time. But while MPs yesterday were

must wait until Monday to debate future transport policy and the British constitution.

The forum has been devised by UK Citizens Online Democracy — a nonpartisan and non-profitmaking company funded by the Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust - to see if the Internet has any influence on politics.

Some political experts believe that the impact of the Internet could swing votes in marginal constituencies in this year's election. Politician's Ribble Valley, will also debate the

anyone wishing to engage in a Forum will run throughout the sparring match with a politician election campaign. Towards polling election campaign. Towards polling day a live radio phone in is being planned to link up politicians and voters who have debated on-line.

Douglas Henderson, a Labour frontbencher, who will give his party's case about the constitution, said last night: "It will be rather like taking part in a football match without a referee. But as a party we are taking this very seriously. People

Tory MPs to have mastered the Internet. "This is the perfect way to get into someone's home and put

ideas across. It is also a good way of contacting young people.

Irving Rapperport, director and founder of UKCOD, said last night. We know that some five per cent of the population are connected to the Internet - some two million people. Who knows, there really could be a significant voice out there who could determine the outcome in up to ten marginal seats?" Anyone wishing to

access the World Wide Web (on: http://www.democracy.org.uk/polforum/).

In a separate move schoolchildren are also being urged to use the Internet to cast their election votes. The Hansard Society, with with BBC's Newsround, is organising a general election for schools. Leading politicians will take part in the debates and Peter Snow, the BBC's political commentator, will analyse the results as they come in from schools around the country.

'Day after day shows more prosperity'

Blair is scared of waiting until May, says Major

By Andrew Pierce and Jill Sherman

upbringing and lifestyle with Mr Blair's.

mitment to reform the consti-

tution in the first year of

government, he said that the

proposals to abolish the

House of Lords might cause

excitement among the "Chian-ti-swilling classes of Islingtonia, but it is not what they want to hear in the Little Chef." He drew loud laughs

when he declared he had

received a wonderful Valen-

time card saying: "Everything I

stand for, Everything I believe

in, I owe to you." It was signed

Mr Major also confronted the danger he has identified as

the greatest risk to the survival

of his Government: the "it's

time for change" argument.

He said: "They pedal misery

and gloom to persuade people

that it's time for a change. But

it won't work. Britain has a

smile on its face. Our win will

that plans for a Scottish tax-

raising parliament and Welsh

assembly will fracture the

On the constitution, he said

broaden that smile."

Tony Blair, he said.

Scorning Mr Blair's com-

JOHN MAJOR attempted to turn the tables on Tony Blair yesterday, by accusing him of trying to trigger an early election in fear that the improving economy would deliver victory to the Tories in May.

It also emerged that the Prime Minister is preparing for a five to six week election campaign, which would probably be announced at the Central Council meeting in Bath on March 14. Senior party sources said it would take about five days to agree to get the legislation sorted out between the main parties before Parliament was dissolved. The official campaign would then be launched, leading up to an election on May I. Mr Major has already sig-

nalled his own appetite for a long campaign, and party strategists now admit that this may be the only way to start bringing down Labour's lead in the polls. The Prime Minister, speaking at the Welsh Tory Party conference in Mostyn, mocked Mr Blair as a man in a hurry: "Labour want an early election because they don't want people to see what is happening in our economy. Day after day shows growth

There was a feeling that the sions taken by the Government were now bearing fruit. he said. Economic prospects

and prosperity

where the "best in living union: "Our nation's heritage, our culture. Our sense of identity and willingness to share institutions and governmemory of most people."

Mr Major used his speech, the first in a series of set-piece ments. These things are a rallies, to unveil the central precious legacy. They cannot be created overnight. They themes of his campaign: Europe, the constitution, the economy and Labour's fitness take generations. to govern. He contrasted his

"Once you set Wales against the north-east of England, Scotland against Wales, the south-west against the Marches, the strength of Britain will be sapped, our natlong as I am prime minister. I

will not let it happen."

Mr Blair derided the main thrust of Mr Major's assault on Labour's constitutional programme, claiming that the idea that the British constitution should never change and evolve and develop is completely absurd." The Tories were running away from an election and it's not as if they're doing anything in

As parliament prepares to debate the censure motion crisis by Douglas Hogg, the agriculture minister, Labour eized on the Government's refusal to put down a motion of its own, praising the minister, as is usual when an opposition party tables-a motion critical of the government Tory strategists said that Labour's motion was a "stunt that merited no response"



Maior holds a Valentine card from Welsh Conservatives for electricity and gas.

Labour says more firms would pay windfall

BY ARTHUR LEATHLEY

LABOUR is preparing legisla..... tion to broaden the scope of the proposed windfall tax to more privatised utilities, it emerged yesterday. It wants to make large companies beyond the water and electricity in dustries liable to the tax. which is expected to raise, between £3 billion and

British Gas. BT, Railtrack Associated British Ports and BAA, the airports authority. would be covered by enabling. legislation listing the statutes ... affected by the tax change. BA, formerly British Airways, is not covered in the legislation; which would be introduced within the first six weeks of a

Labour government. Labour made clear that, although the legislation would enable the Government to tax any of the companies. it did not mean that they would automatically have the levy imposed. The success of regulation, degree of monopoly and the scale of profits would

be considered first. A utilities analyst at stock-broker SGST said the move could reduce the impact of the tax on the water and electricity industries. "If it were extended to the likes of BAA. BT and effect for the water and elec-

ricity companies." Labour responded to criticism by Clare Spottiswoode, the gas industry regulator, of the possible taxing of British Gas by making clear that the party intended to introduce a single energy industry regula-tor to replace separate posts

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Furore at 'murder trial by media'

absolute worst. We have a judicial system in this country and for all its faults, it has stood the test of time."

Nigel Pascoe, OC, chairman affairs committee, said: Whatever the failure of investigation or the lack of evi-dence, it is not for the press to

act as judge and jury.*

The Lawrence family said the newspaper's action ex-posed the defects in the criminal justice system which has failed to see a successful prosecution. Lawyers acting or the family are planning to bring a civil action against the

Imran Khan, the Law-rence's solicitor, said: "Mrs Lawrence was pleased because here is a national newspaper which is taking steps which no other organis-

Peter Wright, the Mail's deputy editor, said: We thought very carefully about it, and it was not an approach we took lightly, but we believe the seriousness of the case and the issues it raises demands this sort of approach."

He said that Mrs Lawrence's unhappiness with the case, the failure of witnesses to cooperate and the arrogance of the five men to answer questions at the inquest had been the reason behind the

Mr Dobson refused to leave his home, just yards from the bus stop where Stephen was stabled to death almost four years ago. Michael Holmes. Mr Dobson's solicitor, said: "I have a sense of outrage about the article. My client insists he is innocent, and always has

Earlier, Mr Dobson had emerged briefly to swear at reporters before retreating into the semi-detached house in Eltham, south-east London. The four other men were not

The Press Complaints Com-

Brown promises a million: no increase in income tax

By JILL SHERMAN, CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

GORDON BROWN sent personalised letters to one million households in marginal seats yesterday pledging that Labour would not raise

The mail-out coincided with new poster launched and signed by Tony Blair which bears the same message that a Labour government would not raise income tax in

of Mr Blair beside the slogan "Labour's five-year tax pledge. no increase in income tax rates." The joint offensive follows signs in some of the polls that Labour has yet to con-vince voters that it will not put

up taxes.
The letter from the Shadow Chancellor says that the basic rate and top rate of tax would remain untouched at 23p and 40p, and that he would also move to a starting rate of 10p. He also confirms that Labour

would reduce VAT on fuel from 8 per cent to 5 per cent extend VAT in certain areas. such as food, children's

He adds: There is much to be done in Britain but new Labour will not make promises which it cannot keep. Just as you would not spend money that you do not have, I will not make spending commitments which I cannot pay."

Mr Brown sets out Labour's only spending pledges: small-er class sizes, cutting waiting

lists and getting more young people into work.
Chief Treasury Secretary William Waldegrave insisted that the Labour leadership had now signalled tax in creases in other areas. Tony Blair's poster launch lets the cat out of the bag," he said.
The implication is absolutely clear: that Labour

would start to pay for its £30. billion of spending pledges by

cuts in allowances.

The two Labour initiatives coincided with the launch of a free-sheet Labour newspaper, ..., The Rose, which again spellsthe Tories in by voting Liberal Democrat. A lighter article lists "20 things you did not know about Tony Blair", including that his favourite meal is fish and chips he gave up smoking on his wedding day and he is "a mimic who takes .-. off most of the Cabinet".

The TUC yesterday launched a El million advertise ing campaign to convince. workers to use their votes in the coming election to win The campaign, funded by many of the major trade, unions, includes a cinemaadvertisement aimed at your-

Prison Service fails to fill boot camp

BY RICHARD FORD, HOME CORRESPONDENT

ng offenders will be only a third full when it opens next been able to find only between eight and 12 suitable candidates for the 32 places to endure the strict discipline of at the Military Corrective Training Centre in Colchester. Essex

process shows that thousands

of the toughest young criminals aged 17-21 will not be

The boot camp at the Army's "glasshouse" opens on Thursday with a group of offenders who pose no threat to the public and are unlikely to want to escape from a tough, spartan regime of drill forms and there will be no and training. The selection

They must also be suitable for open prison conditions, which means trusted to live in premises without a perimeter

Up to 300 Army, Royal Navy and RAF offenders can be held at the centre for crimes including theft and drug dealing. The young offenders sent to the camp will sleep in a separate building and only mix with servicemen during education classes and in workshops. The civilians will not wear military uni-

rank structure. Harry Fletcher, assistant general secretary of the National Association of Probation Officers said: "It is a

Gates riches

Continued from page 1 today, and at 41. Mr Gates is placed to better that Statistical comparison is not easy, but even such a legendary moneybags as Jakob, Fugger, the 16th century German banker to the Holy Roman Emperor Charles V who was known as Jakob the

Rich for his pile - probably shrinks alongside the fortunes of late 20th century America. Leland Montgomery, investing editor of Worth, the Manhattan magazine which monitors America's burgeon- : :: ing billionaires, said yesterday: "Bill Gates's ability to accumulate wealth is unprece dented in the history of man-

kind, and the great thing is : that he is being cheered on by-gra ordinary Americans. Before the Ninenes there, was a backlash in America ... against excessive corporate re 🚜 🦙

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Briton 'was killed over her anti-fascist sticker'

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Called Tick

A BRITISH woman living in Germany was savagely mur-dered by neo-fascists angered by a "Nazis Out" sticker on her rucksack. Patricia Wright. 23. was handcuffed, raped, beaten and choked before dying of multiple stab wounds, a court in Essen was

Miss Wright had met Thomas Lemke, by chance at a railway station and given him her address. Six months later Mr Lemke, 27, arrived at her flat in Bergisch-Gladbach, near Cologne, with a pumpaction shotgun hidden be-neath his coat, the prosecution

alleges.
When Miss Wright gave him a glass of milk be pushed the gun in her face, hand-cuffed her and raped her on her bed. Then, helped by an accomplice, he strangled her with a bootlace, and battered her with a heavy lump of pottery before stabbing her 91 times in the back with a flick

Mr Lemke told police that the sticker marked Miss Wright as an "inferior being" whose life was worthless. Miss Wright's father Michael Wright, 50, who had travelled from his home in Dulwich in southeast London, for the



Thomas Lemke hiding his face as he arrives at court

so horrible.

whole time she didn't say a word. She suffered from asth-

ma - as a child I used to carry

"Perhaps the shock caused

and I wrote to the Germans

asking for financial assis-

tance. They sent back a cold,

official letter saying we might

"We were sickened. We agreed they could keep it. We

qualify for about £220.

case, buried his bead in his hands as he heard how his daughter died.

I've read the files but I had to be here to see the brute who killed her," he said. "Just reading the evidence is enough to send a chill down

my spine.
"I know Patsy's flat and I can see the scene in my mind. Lemke was screaming at her You Bosnian whore — probably she had a sticker or badge somewhere to protest about

the treatment of refugees. "Just like my little Patsy she had dozens of these badges. She was so young and innocent, full of ideals. The

him to look at. The ultimate

anybody in the Government to say how sorry they were or any expression of sympathy."
The court heard that Mr
Lemke killed a 26-year-old
fellow neo-Nazi fearing that he

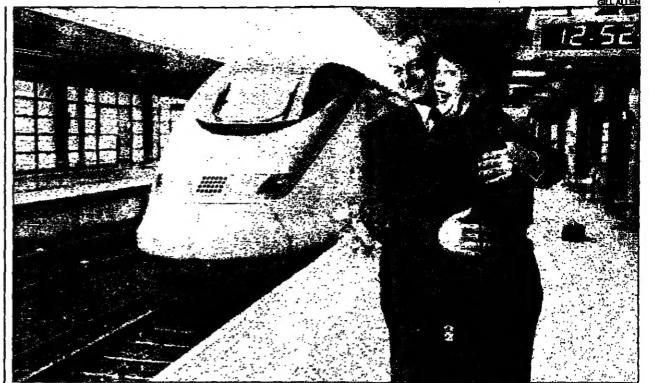
was a police informer, and was also responsible for the murder of a young German woman. There were gasps in the public gallery as the prosecution described how Dagmar Kohlmann, 25, came to die in July 1995 after being bundled into a car boot and driven to a wood.

Then Mr Lemke led her to a

spot where he dug a shallow grave. First he tried to strangle his victim. He is alleged to have then smashed her skull with the spade before burying

her in my arms into the garden when she had an When police raided his flat they uncovered an arsenal and found photographs of Mr Lemke on "military exercises" another attack. My little girl must have been too terrified to even open ber mouth. It's all with other neo-fascists. Hans-Christian Gutjahr, prosecut-ing, said: "In jail Lemke has shown no remorse. He says The funeral cost me more his victims were 'human than £4,000 and my ex-wife dregs'."

A second neo-Nazi, Marcel Muethring, is charged with complicity in Miss Wright's murder. He is alleged to have helped strangle her with the bootface. The trial resumes



station in life yesterday as they became the first to marry in the first-class Eurostan waiting room at Ashford, Kent (Jonathan Prynn writes). Barry Cooke and Yvonne McMeel swore their vows with the station's manager as a witness, then posed for this wedding photograph before

tunnel on board the train, but tickets bought using vouchers when I rang I found they did in The Times - for a honeythe next best thing." moon in Paris. She met her future husband

granted a wedding licence last year. The Valentine bride, a

44-year-old manager of an old

people's home, said: "Barry

wanted to get married in the

Marriage lines begin er, said they had received many requests from couples wishing to marry aboard trains, but this had not been for Euro tunnel of love possible. The waiting room on his milk round in Watford. officially known as the VIP Mr Cooke, 50, who has two adult sons from a previous marriage, said: "She stuck a

note outside her door asking setting," she said. "More wedfor bacon and milk, and it dings are booked in the next really all started from there." few months." A Eurostar spokesman said the weekend Eurostar staff presented the couple with a red, heartwas one of their busiest, with

Grobbelaar saves lost him £125,000, jurors are told

BY KATHRYN KNIGHT

Groom

to November 9, 1994.

November 3, 1994.

The trial continues.

influence the results of football

matches between November 1

JURORS trying match-rig-ging allegations against Bruce him to the authorities. "I Grobbelaar yesterday scrutinised his goalkeeping in a 3-3 draw between Liverpool and Manchester United recorded

Mr Grobbelaur, 39, listened intently as the commentator praised his performance in the match at Anfield in January 1994. But Winchester Crown he said. Court was told that in a secretly-filmed discussion between Mr Grobbelastr and cution witness, the goalkeeper "were paid by a Far Eastern referred to the game and said syndicate to fix results. Heng referred to the game and said be lost £125,000 after instinc-

tively making two good saves. On the video, the commentator shouted "wonderful save by Bruce Grobbelsar and "great save from Bruce" after he saved goal-bound shots from Ryan Giggs and Roy Keane of Manchester United.

Rodney Klevan, QC, for the defence, asked Mr Grobbehaar if he had been proud of his performance. Mr Grobbelaar replied: "Yes, I was."

Asked which save he was most proud of, he said: "Both of them. Giggs turned one way and hit a tremendous shot. Keane's was in a very, very hard area where goalkeepers are prone to let goals in — down by their feet."

The jury also saw a brief extract in which an unsmilling Bruce Grobbelaar was seen being congratulated by team mate Neil Ruddock at the end of the game. David Calvert Smith, for the prosecution, asked: "Is that the face of a man who lost a lot of money?"
Mr Grobbelaar replied:
That's the face of a person who let in three goals against our biggest rivals."

He was asked about the videotape of a conversation with Mr Vincent in which he said he had accidentally dived

the wrong way.

He said: "I was intending to save them and I went the right way." "Did you intend to sell your team short in any of those games?" Mr Klevan rekeri Mr Grobbelaar said: "I ever sold my team short,

He told the court he had deliberately strung Mr VinConcorde BT pair

AN MP is demanding an wanted to know who Vincent was working with. I went along with his little charade. I put a little bit of my stories in there to make it feasible for

plan was for him to give me the names and payment and for me to go to the authorities," The prosecution has alleged that former striker John - Fashanu and goalkeepers Mr Suan Lim a Malaysian bosi nessman, acted as the link had cancelled their tickets.

with the players, it is claimed.
Mr Lim, 31, Mr Fashanu,
34, and Mr Segers, 35, deny
conspiracy to give and accept
corrupt payments to improperly influence or attempt to
influence the results of football Mr Marshall said it was far too much of a coinciinfluence the results of football matches from February 1, 1991 Mr Lim, Mr Fashanu and Mr Grobbelaar, 39, also denyconspiracy to give and accept corrupt payments to improp-

1992 to November 9, 1994. Mr Grobbelaar also denies cor-ruptly accepting from Mr Vincent £2,000 as an inducement or reward for improperly influencing or attempting to fluence the result of a football match or matches on

> after leaving his house in Orpington, southeast London, in the morning for the airport. "I've not heard anything from him since and I don't know where he is," he said. "He's been told to keep a low profile."

His 25-year-old son insists he and Mr Perry, from Essex, dialled the 0345 hotline num-

BT maintains the telephone offer was a "lottery" and that there was no way of cutting

'Disreputable' vintner exploited clients A COMPANY exploiting fears of a premillennial champagne drought cheat-

ed customers out of thousands of pounds by selling low-grade cham-pagne at inflated prices, the High Court was told yesterday.

The Department of Trade and Industry is so concerned that customers are being "seriously mislead" that it asked Mr Justice Carnwath to take

London-based firm, Forrester Larnego Ltd, which advertises in national newspapers. Philip Heslop, representing the department, told the court how the company offered a "large profit potential" for investors in champagne and port. Products of "questionable quality" were being sold at vastly inflated prices to customers who believed the "thoroughly disreputable" sold at a 272 per cent mark-up. Mr Heslop said that customers would lose money instead of making a profit. There is no way one could recover the difference, never mind

regard it as an investment," he said. Customers were also liable to pay hidden costs such as VAT and unpaid duties. Mr Heslop said the company logo boasted "vintners of distinction",

Cleeve. It operated from offices in central London with eight unskilled

telesales staff. Christopher Pymont, representing the company, asked the judge not to send in the official receiver until after a full hearing next Friday. He said an advertisement had been placed in tomorrow's Express on Sunday magazine, but he said the company would

Inquiry call over

investigation into how two BT computer experts from the same office beat millions of callers to win ElO seats on John Marshall, Tory MP for

Hendon South, made the call as Neville Secular and Dean Perry apparently failed to turn up with other winners for the Valentine's Day seats they had booked on the flight to New York British Airways deand their partners had been sneaked onto Flight 001, had taken another Concorde, or

dence" that the pair should both be among the first 190 callers to a British Airways 0345 hotline which received 30 million calls on Tuesday night. He called on BT to investigate potential flaws in the system and said employees should be banned from taking part in future competitions. BT should, in order to im-

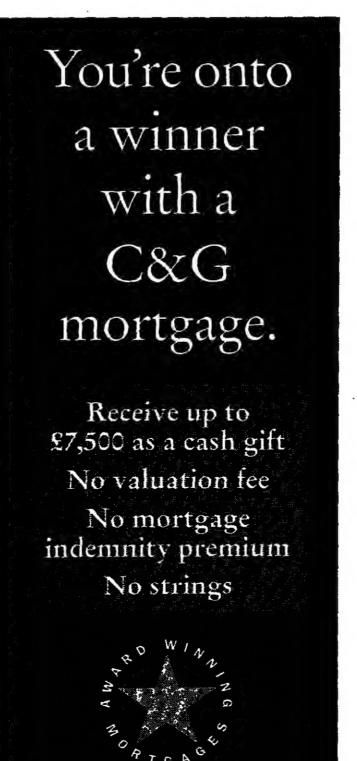
prove their good name, offer to pay for another two couples to enjoy what is effectively a free holiday," he added.

A BT spokesman said: "If Mr Marshall is going to make a formal complaint we will obviously consider what he's got to say but until and unless he does that, we cannot make any other comment. If there is

anything to be investigated, we will do so."

Mr Secular's father, Ed-ward, said yesterday he had no idea where his son went

ber in the normal way from the office they share in the Data Build division in Holborn, central London.



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Brawling shinty family banned from field of play until 2001

Grobbelaar: jury saw video of derby match

By GILLIAN BOWDITCH, SCOTLAND CORRESPONDENT

A FATHER and his two sons have been banned from play-ing shinty for the rest of this century after a brawl involving 18 players that brought a A special meeting of the Camanachd Association's disciplinary committee decreed its most severe punishment
ever for Robert Duffy, 38, and
bis sons Alan and David, who

play for Oban Celtic. They were banned from all shinty parks until 2001 after they were judged to have started a fight during a game against Inveraray, a team from Argyllshire, on Febru-

ary l. The incident began when

another player. His father stepped in to help, joined by his brother. At the height of the brawl, 18 of the 24 players had downed their camans (shinty sticks) and waded in. The referee ahandoned the

match and reported the players. Each club was fined £250, which will be waived if their players keep out of trouble for a year. Both have been banned from further partici-pation in this year's Aberdein Considine Cup.

Shinty — camanachd in Gaelic — is probably the oldest organised team game in Western Europe still played to the original rules. In

563 Columba left Ireland for Scotland in the wake of a quarrel said to have broken out during a game of shinty, and it may have been intro-duced to Scotland by his A spokesman for the

nehd Association said: "The disciplinary committee has never dished out a stiffer sentence in its history and, believe me, there have been some heated incidents on the field of play."

No one from the Duffy family was available to comment Alan McKie, secretary of Oban Celtic, said the three players were not renowned for tough play.

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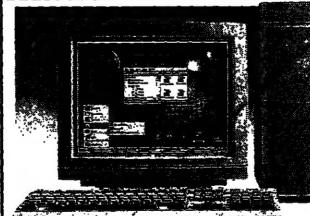
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Student teachers face spelling tests before taking class

STUDENT teachers will have ingly obvious to everyone that to demonstrate their own grasp of grammar, spelling and punctuation before they teach children to read and write, under plans to be announced by Gillian Shephard. the Education and Employment Secretary.

The first national curriculum for teacher training will require colleges and university education departments to make similar checks on trainees' competence in basic arithmetic if they are to teach primary mathematics. Detailed proposals will be released next Tuesday.

An outline of the curriculum, leaked to The Times Educational Supplement, shows that reachers will be required to demonstrate an ability to conduct whole-class teaching, maintain discipline and deliver interesting lessons. A tough stance on teacher training is one of Mrs Shephard's key commitments in the pre-election period, and she has promised to implement the "biggest ever shake-up" from next September if in

When she commissioned the Teacher Training Agency to draw up a curriculum last September, Mrs Shephard too many newly qualified teachers, through no fault of their own, lack the teaching skills they need." in primary training, she promised to focus on student teachers' sub-ject knowledge and their

ability to put over the basics.
The Education and Employment Department refused to comment on the report in advance of publication, but a spokeswoman said that pro-posals would be wide-ranging. The agency has developed the curriculum after consult-

ing the teaching profession and training institutions. Four documents will set out proposed requirements for prima-ry training in English and mathematics, rules for the new courses, and the standards to be set for qualifying.

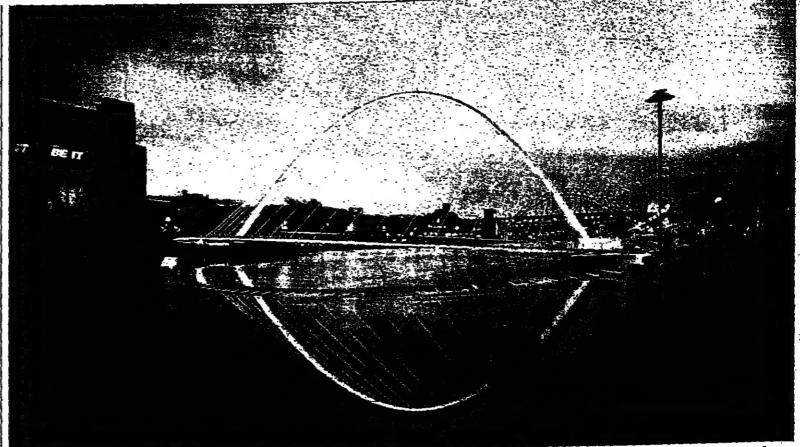
Ted Wragg, Professor of Education at Exeter University, said: "I am not in favour of a curriculum set by government, but I don't think it is unreasonable at all to say that those who are teaching something should be competent at it themselves. Students have to have GCSE English to get on to a course, so they should be able to do these things already." The curriculum is not expected to demand tests of grammar or spelling, but Pro-

fessor Wragg said that higher education institutions might have to introduce tests if they were required to vouch for trainees' competence.

Labour has also promised teacher-training reforms. A party spokesman said: Teaching methods that are modern versions of traditional methods do make a difference. As part of the training curriculum, teachers must be able not only to master them, but be encouraged to use them in the early years of teaching read-ing. We are in favour of having a probationary year for teachers because 46 cent coming out of training say they have not got the confidence to teach in a classroom."

This week the Office for Standards in Education reported on its first round of inspections of primary training, saying that standards were "mostly sound" but adding: "In a significant minority of cases, students' practical competence in the teaching of reading is insecure."

In mathematics, inspectors found that students' knowledge was "generally at least adequate to teach the lessons they plan" but a few courses failed to create the necessary



An artist's impression of the bridge, which locals have likened to a giant cyclid opening to let ships through. It would link to an arts complex

Curved bridge puts new twist in Tyne row

BY PAUL WILKINSON

PLANS for a futuristic curved bridge across the Tyne which would swivel upwards along its axis, allowing ships to pass beneath, were unveiled yester-day. But the link, a key part of a £100 million riverside music and art complex to rival the South Bank in London, is threatening to lead its owners of an eight-acre section of the

The land had been earmarked by civic and arts leaders on Tyneside for a £35 million regional music centre to provide a home for the Northern Sinfonia, Martin Bell, of Bridon Ropes, which had a works on the site until 1993, said the homes plan had been under discussion for a long time. "We intend to fight them all the way to a public inquiry."

A Gateshead council spokesman

purchase order if necessary.

The arts complex would also take in a 1940s concrete grain store on the southern bank of the Tyne. It would be turned into a visual arts centre with galleries, workshops and recreational facilities. The new £7.5 million pedestrian bridge is intended to tie it in with the Quayside docklands reclamation on the northern bank

It is only a short-distance down riverfrom the famous arch of the Tyne.

Bridge, which its designers say it mirrors. Locals have likened it to a buge eyelid blinking open to allow river traffic through.

The design by the civil engineers Gifford and Partners and Chris Wilkinson Architects won an international contest. It should be complete by 2000 if it gets funding from the Millennium Commission. The horizontally curved walkway is linked

Universe could be a billion years older By NICK NUTTALL, TECHNOLOGY CORRESPONDENT

THE Universe may be 10 per winking stars called cepheids, cent bigger and a billion years the nearest of which are some older than the last set of measurements made it, scien-

A "cosmic ruler", used since the 1920s and the measuring stick for the size of the Universe, is wrong and needs revising, they claimed. The scientists estimated that the oldest stars were about [1 billion years old, making the

Universe 12 billion years old. meeting in London of the Royal Astronomical Society. are based on observations from the Hippards satellite launched in 1989 by the Euro-

pean Space Agency.
Professor Michael Feast of the University of Cape Town, who made the discovery with Dr Robin Catchpole of the Royal Greenwich Observatory, said yesterday: "We judge the Universe to be a little bigger and therefore a little older by about a billion years." The size and age of the Universe is based on the 1,000 to 2,000 light years away. By taking the pulse rates of these "standard candies" and measuring their brightness, astronomers can work out how far each one is

ft allows them to make fairly accurate stabs at the size of the expanding Universe by mapping out the distance of omer who produced the first star map in 150 BC, was able to make more accurate meaurements than ever before from its position outside the

atmosphere. Previous studies by scientists using observations from the Hubble Space Telescope had suggested that the Universe might be as young as nine billion years old, making the oldest stars even older than the Universe itself. "I hone we have cured a nonsensical contradiction that was a headache for cosmologists."





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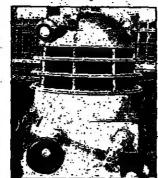
Dr Who lands in the middle of a £22m lawsuit

THE Dr Who television series is at the centre of a £22 million dispute. The BBC said yesterday that it would "vigorously contend" accusations that it had reneged on a deal for a feature film.

A consortium of three filmmakers and other backers, including the pop stars Bryan Ferry and John Illsley of Dire Straits, issued a writ in the High Court yesterday seeking immediate compensation for El million they say they lost when the deal failed. They are also claiming damages of EZI million for potential profits from the three film versions of Dr Who they had planned

The consortium, known as the Dalterreys, says it negotiated exclusive film rights to the Dr Who film after the television series was axed. Leonard Nimoy, the American actor and director who played Mr Spock in Star Trek, was recruited as director. Alan Rickman was about to be cast as the Doctor in January 1994 when the BBC announced it was going ahead with a rival American version involving Amblin TV, Steven Spielberg's

The American film, which was eventually made by a third company and which.



starred Paul McGann, flopped when it was released

The film-makers - George Dugdale, John Humphreys and Peter Litten - say they invested everything they owned, including savings and second mortgages on their homes, to raise the £440,000 for the film rights. They claim that the BBC blatantly "breached its undertaking" with the Daltenreys. Mr Humphreys said yester-

day: "We have been ruined by the BBC. They made every effort to ensure that the project did not get off the ground." The consortium signed the original deal in 1987 with John

Keeble, head of BBC Enter-

prises, now BBC Worldwide.

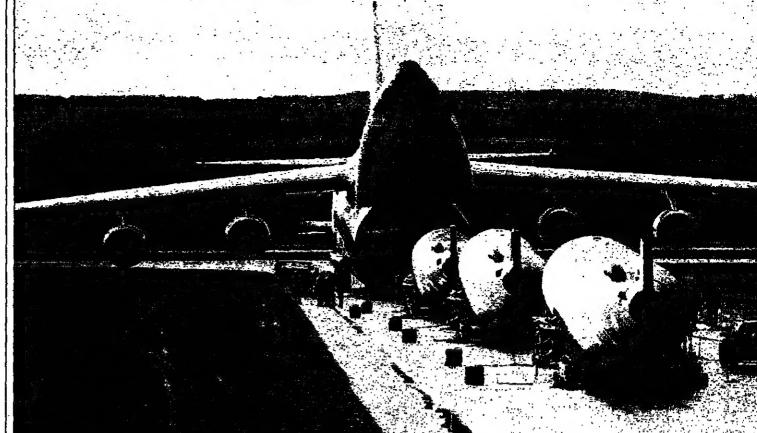
Daltenreys secured an agree-ment with Lumiere Pictures, a company which wanted to invest £20 million in films. The film-makers went to the BBC for final approval, as they were contractually bound to do. According to the writ, BBC executives obstructed and delayed" progress and even encouraged lumiere to exclude the Daltenreys from the project.

A spokeswoman for the BBC said yesterday: "We are unaware of any legal action but we will vigorously contest it. They had the rights from us but even with an extended period of time could not get the production off the ground. The rights reverted back to the

The Daltenreys' lawyer, Stuart Lockyear, said: "This has caused financial hardship. Fortunately, NatWest Bank has been very understanding. The BBC will receive the writ through the post on Monday."

If The Independent Television Commission yesterday ordered a clampdown on advertisements that could cause

epileptic fits among viewers. The commission upheld complaints against advertise ments for Boots cosmetics and Marmite which featured flickering images and vertical black and white lines.



Russian 'Jaws' takes hold of RAF's Nimro

transporter prepares to swallow the 12ton fuselages of three RAF Nimrod aircraft at RAF Kinloss on the Moray coast vesterday.

The cargo jet will fly one fuselage at a time to Bournemouth, where 21 Nimrods, a marine reconaissance aircraft which specialises as a submarine-hunter, are to be refurbished as

the biggest single piece by volume ever airlifted. The tails and wings of the Nimrods were cut off so the 110ft long fuselages could be slid into the Antonov's hold.

They will be fitted with new wings, new tails, and sophisticated new electronics and avionics by FR Aviation, under the programme led by British Aerospace to update them. enter squadron service in 2001. The contract was won last summer against stiff competition from Lock-

heed Martin, the American company, which offered new P-3 Orion maritime patrol aircraft.

service in 1969, the airframe is still immensely strong and the RAF accept-ed the refurbishment plan. British

three spare Nimrods that had held in storage without engin avionics so that it would no

RAF operations. The company said it was che ease the Antonov and fly the fu to Bournemouth rather than a to rebuild the Nimrods to ma journey under their own por conversion work could begin.

Universe could a billion years@ Husband is fined for assault on

Awist in Tyneron

HUSBAND who attacked a Labour council leader whom he believed had seduced his wife on "fact-finding" missions was fined £750 yesterday.

councillor

Terry Hurlstone, 57, was also ordered to pay £350 compensation to Arthur Latham. The prolonged attack left Mr Latham, 68, terrified and trembling so violently that his false teeth were shaken from his mouth, Snaresbrook Crown Court in east London was told.

Huristone, whose daughter Jessie was murdered in 1995, became enraged after finding what he believed were love notes for his wife, Caroline, from Mr Latham, a former Labour MP. The court was told that he stormed into the home of Mr Latham, who had just finished breakfast, and repeatedly punched him on the head and body.

Sentencing Huristone yes terday. Judge King said he accepted that the former teacher's state of mind had been affected by the murder of his stepdaughter, a stablehand in Devon who was killed by a spurned suitor. But he added: You allowed yourself to lose your self-control and your temper. This was a disgraceful episode on your part and one of which you should be thoroughly ashamed. Difficulties of this kind cannot be resolved by recourse to violence."

Huristone, who was convicted of common assault in

December, told the jury he had thought that the long hours his wife devoted to Havering Borough Council was simply a sign of her dedication to local democracy. Huristone, of Romford, east London, said that he and his wife of 22 years had begun divorce proceedings. After the case he said: "I regret the whole incident but you cannot turn the clock back. I intend to brate tonight at a Valentine's Day singles dinner. The adies there have voted me the most popular male member."

Thief freed by judge is rearrested

arrested moments after be walked free from court. The IT-year-old youth grinned as the judge said he had decided to give him a two-year proba-tion order and 80 hours' community service for attacking a woman airline executive in Beigravia and stealing her £5,000 bracelet. But as he left Southwark Crown Court, the unnamed youth was arrested for allegedly committing a second mugging while he was

Bus driver jailed

A bus driver who rammed a double-decker in Brixton, south London, in December was two times over the drinkdrive limit, South Western magistrates were told. Sharon Palmer, 40, was jailed for two months and banned from driving for two years.

Gun tragedy

A cabinet maker was found dead with shotgun wounds in his car after years of worrying about body odour, an inquest in Guildford heard. An open verdict was recorded on David Gatfield, 34, of Parnham, Surrey, who was convinced he smelled.

Animal cruelty

Two 15-year-old boys blew up a hamster by putting it in a tin with four fireworks, Driffield Youth Court was told. One of them then stamped on the animal at Driffield School, East Riding, in November. They were fined £100 each phus £25 costs.

Warding off evil

Hospital beds in the Irish Republic remain unnecessarily occupied on Saturdays because of a superstition among patients that leaving on the last day of the week is bad luck, says a survey by Dr Elizabeth Keane of the Insti-

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Friends of the Earth threatens to bring private prosecutions on first anniversary of tanker accident

Protesters demand action on Sea Empress pollution

ENVIRONMENT CORRESPONDENT

ENVIRONMENT campaigners marked the first anniversary of the wreck of the Sea Empress oil tanker by threatening private prosecutions Transport, the Milford Haven Port Authority and other organisations involved in the

Friends of the Earth said yesterday that unless the Government's Environment Agency brought criminal proceedings against those responsible within a month, it would proceed with legal action. The grounding of the tanker led to 72,000 tonnes of crude oil leaking into the sea, killing thousands of birds and contaminating large areas of the Pembrokeshire coast.

Tony Juniper, campaigns director at Friends of the Earth, said that if the agency failed to act then the group would. He said the Department of Transport was in its



The tanker adrift off Pembrokeshire a year ago

authority, but he added that the group was gathering new information on the spill all the time and would not rule out action against those behind other groups.

A spokesman for Leigh Day and Co, Friends of the Earth's solicitors, said they would seek a prosecution under the Water Resources Act. "It is clear that the grounding of the Sea Empress and the oil pollution that followed were avoidable," Mr Juniper said. "But whether those with crimiresponsibility for this

disaster will face legal procredings is another matter. If justice is to be done, we must have a proper enforcement of

environmental law. The public has waited patiently for a whole year but still the Environment Agency won't say who is to blame. We are putting them on notice that if they won't prosecute, then Friends of the Earth will."

The penalty for a conviction under the Water Resources Act is a maximum of three months in jail and a fine of £20,000 if the case is heard by magistrates. In the Crown Court, the jail sentence is up to

In 1990 Shell was fined El million after it was found guilty of polluting the Mersey Basin after an oil spill. The case was brought by the National Rivers Authority. which is now part of the Environment Agency.

The investigation into the Sea Empress grounding is being carried out by the agency with the Department of l'ransport's Marine Accident Investigation Branch, Its report has still to be published. but preliminary results have disclosed several errors.

The Marine Conservation Society yesterday attacked the Government's response to the accident as "inadequate" and complained that it had refused to station tugs permanently at strategic locations around Britain. The society also said that a full public inquiry into the oil spill was needed.

and later removed. Members of Friends of the David Walker, the Environ-Earth deposited polluted ment Agency's southwest sludge from the Pembroke-

ment outside the Department

of Transport's offices in

London yesterday to protest at

the slowness in bringing those

sludge was put on a tarpaulin

premature decision." He said any decision on a prosecution evidence and not politics "as

had been suggested by some".

The agency said the investigation had taken so long because it was complex and a large number of witnesses in Britain and from overseas had to be traced and interviewed.

Campaigners dump buckets of sludge contaminated by the oil spill outside the Department of Transport Wildlife still feels impact of the spill

By OUR ENVIRONMENT CORRESPONDENT

WILDLIFE is still feeling the impact a year after the Sea the measured predictions made at the time of the lisaster by some environmental groups and scientists were

Dr Malcolm Smith of the Countryside Council for Wales said: "Our findings suggest that short-term damage was considerable, but the onger-term effects could have been much worse had the spill happened later, when it could have jeopardised the buge population of breeding seabirds in the spring or the grey seal breeding population in the autumn.

Dr Smith, whose organisation is part of the Government's Sea Empress Environ-Committee, which will report in the autumn, said that breading colonies of guillemots in south and central Pembrokeshire and on islands such as Skomer had not yet recovered: "On average, the populations of guillemots.

Shag, cormorant and razorbili numbers are also lower than in the winter of 1995.

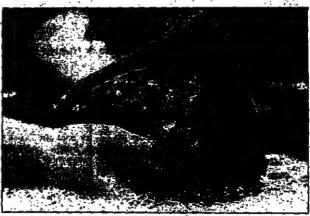
Alternativ

derided a

One of the biggest impacts has been on the prized scoter duck population. Normally some 40,000 waterfowl winter in the area, including up to a third of the UK population of scoters, mainly in Carmarthen Bay. "Counts this winter bers of scoters there were last winter." Dr Smith said.

Some 7.000 birds, representing 28 species, were found oiled and dead in the days and weeks after the disaster. Scientists believe that many more died without

coming ashore.
While the beaches around the Haven are now apparenttion, some of the oil and the clean-up chemicals remain in the mud and on the bottom of the see. Bans on fishing shellfish outside the Burry Inlet and the Three Rivers Estuary near Milford Haven remain in place. The ban also covers edible plants such as remain down by 17 per cent in seaweeds and samphire.



Rescue: an oiled guillemot being cleaned last year



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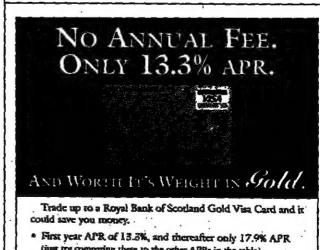
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False memories can be created by imagining events

pealed to wishful thinkers and

the "worried well", healthy

people witto responded to reas-

surance and placebo

Dr Wallace Sampson of

Stanford University de-

nounced most alternative therapies as "quackery". Even papers published in reputable journals such as The Lancet

purporting to provide backing for alternative therapies need-

ed close examination, he said.

dence" for most of the claims

that were made.

There was "no credible evi-

THE power of the imagination can distort people's perception of the past, creating memories of events that never happened, an American psy-

chologist has shown.

The finding has important implications for sexual abuse cases that depend on adults being encouraged to "remember events that happened in their childhood. The research shows how easy it is to plant memories by asking people to imagine such events.

Elizabeth Loftus, a psychologist from the University of Washington, reported her experiments at the meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science in Seattle yesterday. She calls the phenomenon "imagina-

ALTERNATIVE medicine

manages to fool a loyal and growing clientele despite evi-

dence that it does not work, the

"A fertile climate for quack-

ery has been created by a

number of social and psycho-

logical factors, which are con-

vincing both the purveyors

and the consumers of alterna-

tive therapies that the treat-

ments are valid," said Dr

Barry Beyerstein of Simon

Fraser University in British

Their claims strongly ap-

association was told.

tion inflation" and says that its several such situations and being taken through them by a series of questions, the subimplications are enormous. In her experiments, volun-teers were given a list of 40 childhood events and asked to jects were again given the list of 40 possible childhood events to complete. Professor estimate the likelihood that any of these events had hap-pened to them, on a scale ranging from "definitely did not happen" to "definitely did happen". Two weeks later the subjects were asked to imag-ine that events they had identi-fied as not occurring had actually happened to them. The events included falling and breaking a window with their hand, setting into trou-Loftus and her colleagues found that a one-minute act of imagination made some subjects more likely to believe that

occurred.

In the case of the broken window, for example, almost a quarter of the subjects who imagined the event were more likely to believe that it had their hand, getting into trou-ble for dialling 911 (the US version of 999), finding a \$10 note in a car park, or being pulled out of the water by a lifeguard. After imagining actually occurred.

such an event had really

There are several possible explanations, Professor Loftus says. One is that an act of imagination might remind some people of a real experience. But a more likely explanation, she believes, is that imagining the event simply made it more familiar when the second assessment was made, and that familiarity was mistakenly related to childhood memories.

Professor Loftus designed the experiments to mimic what goes on in some psychotherapists' offices. "Sometimes these therapists are saying, Oh, you don't remember who molested you? Just close your eyes and imagine who might have done it. They somehow think that this might be a route to getting out those buried trauma memories, but in fact we have found that just getting people to imagine things is enough to lead them to believe that they had experibelieve they had had."



Dancers from hallet schools across Europe audition for the largest English production of Swan Lake, to be staged by the English National Ballet at the Albert Hall in May. Derek Deane, artistic director, auditioned 65 dancers

Byron the grea lover 'just wante to be left in peace

BYRON'S image as one of the great Don Juans may be in tatters. Far from chasing women, the 19th-century poet spent "an inordinate time fleeing them" and wanted to be left in peace, according to a new biography by a woman

By nature, he was extreme ly indolent and all these women required too much energy." says Phyllis Grosskurth, professor emeri-tus of English at the University of Toronto. "He'd fall madly in love for two weeks and then he couldn't wait to get rid of the woman.

"It wasn't that he wanted to move on to the next one, but that he couldn't wait to have a peaceful life. It was the women — not Byron — who were doing the chasing." Byron scholars and admir-

ers may contest the suggestion but, she explained, they have always read into him-what they have wanted to read—they wanted to see the romantic figure".

Rereading his poetry and letters, she has reassessed Bryon the man. She said: "Byron was never possessed by passion. It was only for brief periods, and he frequent ly tired of women. He sought peace and quiet. He shied from any intimacy and longlasting domestic attachment."

She pointed to his most

lasting poem, Don Juan, in which Byron (1788-1824) wrote: "Man's love is of man's life a thing apart, Tis wom-an's whole existence." Professor Grosskurth's findings are explored in Byron: The Flawed Angel, published by Hodder and Stoughton on February 20. Other biogra-

tendency to "pull down" acters in Byron's circ She singled out pre portrayals of Byron's Annabella: "Dedic

Byronists suggest she humourless and took he too seriously. What they was that what he made suffer something drea He had explosive rages strange habits. He any of her friends, an fused to dine with her : couldn't bear to see a wo vealed that their ser feared he might "harm"

"He was relatively dra into marriage because o incestuous relationship his half-sister, Augusta-riage would give him an of respectability." The importance of By

affair with Lady Car Lamb had also been dist said the professor: "It I little more than three m and he had tired of her w



him, biographer sa

Letter commemorating naval victory may go under the hamme under Admiral Jervis. Mr Lincoln.



Alternative therapies

derided as quackery

BY OUR SCIENCE EDITION

Ashe Lincoln Ending the admiral's framed letter

DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

A LETTER recounting Admiral Sir John Jervis's victory over the Spanish fleet at the Battle of Cape St Vincent 200 years ago yesterday may be offered for sale.

The letter, written in black ink two days after the event, has been in the session of Britain's longest-serving QC for about 40 years. Ashe Lincoln, 89, who is still working as a

on one of the walls of his office in Inner Temple "for as long as I can remember". He is now considering parting with the historic document,

believed to be worth about £10,000. At the time of the Battle of Cape St Vincent, the French and Spanish had built up a superior naval force.
Admiral lervis, in command on
board HMS Victory, positioned his
fleet of 15 warships off Cape St
Vincent to prevent the Franco-Span-

ish fleet moving north and threaten-ing England. His bold action helped the British squadron to win a decisive victory over the much larger Spanish fleet and made him a national hero. He was later created Earl St Vincent.

The 200th anniversary of the battle was celebrated yesterday in Ports-mouth, where the Victory is now berthed. Lord Nelson, who later commanded HMS Victory at Trafalgar, was a commodore at the time of the Battle of Cape St Vincent, serving

who also has a cross-section model of HMS Victory in his office, acquired the Jervis letter as part of a "job lot of naval memorabilia". He said he immediately recognised its historic importance. "It was fantastic, I knew it was genuine when I saw the signature," he said.

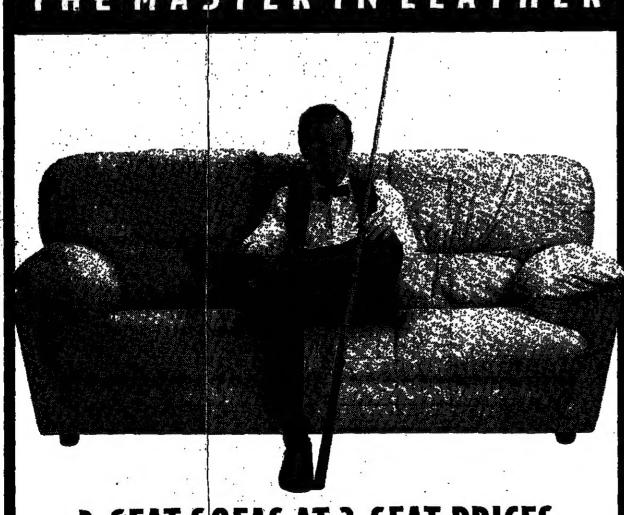
The letter reads: "My dear Generai. I have just time to tell you we have had an action with the Spanish Fleet which consisted of 27 Sail of the Line

and ten Frigates, ours of 15 Sail Line and six Frigates — and the have captured 2 first Rates, of eighty guns, and one of sever many others are soundly beate Santissima Trinidade in parti Gibson will tell you the rest."

Mr Lincoln said he believe

the recipient of the letter was G Sir John Moore who subseq made his name over the retr Corumna in 1809. Gibson, he was an aide to Admiral Jervis.

THE MASTERINLEATHER



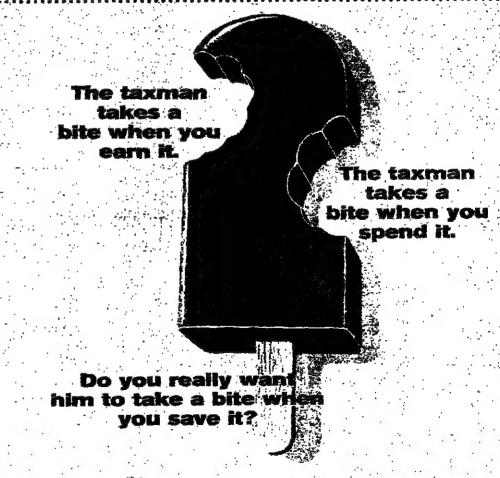
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The Right Rev Nigel McCulloch urges respect for animals

Suffer our four-legged friends

St Francis: memorable

expression of tradition

I WAS staggered 18 months ago when my doctor told me I had to see a heart specialist. A routine medical examination had produced a disturbing ECG pattern. This news was received by my wife and children with obvious concern. They put me under great pressure to exercise more and insisted that the best cure for my condition was a dog.

For a few days I resisted. then agreed to go with them to look at some Yorkshire-born cross-breed puppies. I succumbed in an instant to the chocolate-coloured one with

appealing eyes.

A few weeks later I went to see the cardiologist and had a treadmill test. He took one look at the results, seemed "There's nothing the matter with your heart. The ECG must have been wrong." In my mind's eye, I could see my

dog's smiling face.
So I am landed with a dog. not to mention paying for dog food and vet's bills. Except that I have to admit I have grown rather fond of Gracie, known affectionately as "bish-

Credo

tradition of affection and respect for animals going back to the early saints. It has found its most memorable expression in Saint Francis. St John Conference -- have reminded Chrysostom, one of the great scholar bishops of the 4th century, wrote: "Surely we us that it is part of our Christian calling to prevent ought to show kindness and neglect, cruelty, degradation gentleness to animals for and commercial exploitation. many reasons, and chiefly Unfortunately there is no because they are of the same

The Bible contains a rich variety of animals, although its specific guidance on how to treat them is less clear. Sadly, its verses have been used at times to justify cruel behavlour. In the book of Genesis, God directs man and woman to have dominion over animals. But, as several Old Testament scholars have pointed out, having dominion does not mean exploiting. It means having responsibility for the well-being of God's creation.

Various churches have strengthened their efforts to and counter cruelty to ani-

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publicity, for example, about experimentation, cuiling, poaching, transportation and husbandry reflects a height-ened public awareness and mals. It was an Anglican clergyman who, in the last century, founded the RSPCA. growing concern about the More recently, the General Synod — and the Lambeth way we treat animals. There are, however, some

complex ethical issues to be faced, such as the nature of animals' rights. The Church still has work to do on this, and on providing appropriate moral guidelines for Christian behaviour towards animals.

These matters have been brought into sharper focus for me now that I have a dog whose welfare is my daily concern. This has led me to reflect on man's attitude to animals in a way that I must confess, I had not done before. I have also pondered on how animals treat one another.

One of my favourite passages in the Bible is the vision in the eleventh chapter of Isaiah. It looks to the day when animals will no longer injure each other. The wolf and lamb, the leopard and the kid, the calf and the young lion will live together - and a little child shall lead them. For the moment, that remains no

shortage of such abuse. Recent more than a vision of God's world at peace, although brave attempts are made, at the increasing number of animal services in churches, to have domestic pets anticipating that heavenly fellowship.

vide earthly companionship. For me, getting to know Gracie has been a rich experience of deepening mutual trust. And as a result of my heart scare, my own view of animals has been trans-

There is a growing Christian consensus that more needs to be done to prevent unnecessary injury to animals and encourage their protec-tion. Our treatment of them

remains horrifyingly uneven. St John the Divine in his vision described in the book of Revelation, heard these words of praise: "To him who sits upon the throne and to the lamb be blessing and glory and might for ever and ever." The point is that, as St John emphasised, these words of

☐ Nigel McCulloch is Bishop

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Bishop McCulloch's dog has led him to reflect on man's attitude to the beasts

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BY RUTH GLEDHILL, RELIGION CORRESPONDENT

A COUNTRY parish is to Davies's mother each week nave" services for young people. The parish church of Bisley, named after the ascetic. desert-living St John the Baptist, is to launch Dog Collar Ale at a local pub on Tuesday in an attempt to raise at least

The 4.8 per cent strength beer, recommended by one member of the Campaign for Real Ale as "a strong ale with a hoppy flavour", will be brewed at the Princetown Devon. It will be sold initially for about \$2 a bottle at the Fox ould be introduced as a cask ale.

The Rt Rev Jan Bradeley, Suffragan Bishop of Dorking.

who will launch the beer, said: Today's church must be orepared to reach out to the wider community and this is a very sociable way to do it."

The Rev Ian Terry, rector of Bisley, turned to beer as a the joys of God's creation. fundraising idea after Philip Davies, who owns the Princetown Brewery, offered to help out. Mr Terry had helped to care for Mri Davies's late father and takes communion for the sick to Mr

produce an own-label real ale Mr Davies's brewery will to raise funds for "rave in-the-produce the ale and his brother lonathan's printing com-

labels and promotional side. Mr Terry, a real ale drinker, said Dog Collar Ale tasted like a true real ale. The church needed money for sound systems and a loop induction for the hard of hearing. "We are turning around our opm services, and focusing them on attracting young people and those who prefer an informal

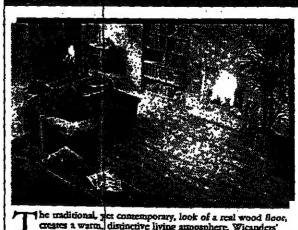
style." eo projections, use of a roving microphone and sound and light systems, along with drama. If sales take off, he hopes to fund a curate for the parish. which would cost £15,000 a

year with expenses. Mr Terry said: "Ale brewing has always been at the centre of church life, particularly in monastic times. Alcohol consumed in moderation is a good way of celebrating

"People still think that joining the Church means saying

> At Your Service Weekend, page li

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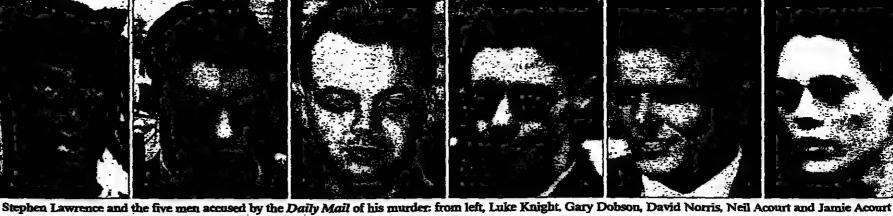
Daily Mail murder challenge is low-risk strategy

Five men unlikely to take action on paper's charges











minimal damages, as low as lp.

If the family pursues a civil action, they would be on stronger ground. Legal aid is available. The action would be heard by a judge without a jury. Again, the youths could not be compelled to give evidence they would almost certainly claim the common law funda-

ly claim the common law funda-

mental right not to incriminate

themselves, as they did at the

inquest. But, as with any libel action, a failure to give evidence

would prejudice their position.

THE Daily Mail took a calculated risk yesterday with its front-page story accusing five young men of the murder of Stephen Lawrence (Frances Gibb, legal correspondent, reports). Its "sue us if we are wrong" challenge illustrated the paper's confidence that the legal cards are stacked in its favour.

Lawyers agreed yesterday. They said the likelihood of the men being able to mount an action for libel was remote, and the chances of such an action being successful even more

The Mail's story increased the rospect of the murder accusation being heard in a civil court. The Lawrence family has already said it

roundered Stephen, 18, in the civil courts, as was done in the O.J. Simpson case.

The prosecutions of the youths collapsed in the criminal courts because there was insufficient evidence. There, jurors must be convinced "beyond reasonable doubt". In the civil courts the test is a lesser one: "on a balance of probabilities".

In both a libel action and a civil action for murder, it is possible that a civil court could decide where guilt lies, even if a criminal court were

A libel action by those accused by the Mail would be unlikely to get off the ground, however. The five would have to raise funding because

Lawyers are not allowed under current rules to undertake the case on a "no win, no fee" basis, although they could offer to do it for nothing. The men could instead sue for

malicious falsehood, which does qualify for legal aid. But then they would have to prove that the article was published maliciously by the Mail, knowing it to be untrue. Once the court is satisfied that the

publication refers to them and is damaging, the burden of proof rests on the Mail. Under the defamation laws, a newspaper is effectively guilty until it proves its innocence.

The Mail would have to show: that the publication was true, and -

The question of evidence at any or - that it was fair comment. If the

for the Mail to prove that each of the youths committed murder "on a balance of probabilities". But the paper could draw in all the evidence used in committal proceedings and various other court hearings and even evidence excluded for legal

Its lawyers might also plead that the paper was covered by a degree of "qualified privilege" because the article followed and drew on the verdict of the coroner's jury that Stephen Lawrence was "unlawfully killed". Each of the five had attended the inquest and had invoked his right to silence.

libel trial would raise a second

a defamation partner with Davenport Lyons, said yesterday. It is highly unlikely they would sue because they would have to give evidence on their behalf if they were to have any chance of a jury believing them." Mr Smith said that they could submit affidavits and trial transcripts. The Mail would call its own witnesses to contest these, and if the five refused to be cross-examined, jurors would be unlikely to find in their favour.

There is a statutory right to a jury in libel and a presumption that trial will be by jury unless the case involves a mass of complex documents or scientific investigations. A majority verdict would be

If the Lawrence family did get a finding that the youths were liable, they would be unlikely to be able to obtain damages because the defendants have no funds. sufficient. Even with a favourable

☐ Aprīl 22, 1993: Stepl

☐ April 29: Inquest form: opened and adjourned.

May 13: Neil Acc charged with murder. ☐ June 23: Luke Kni charged with murder.

□ July 29: Court told inst cient evidence to bring a ca Police set up review of inqu December 21: Inquest sumed. Police invited to c tinue investigating.

April 24, 1994: 7
Acourts, Knight and Nor

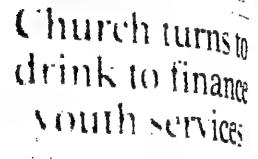
charged with murder in ☐ August 29, 1995: Gary D son charged.

September 7: Jamie Acc

discharged - insufficient dence he was at the scene. ☐ September 8: Case again David Norris dropped sufficient evidence ☐ September II: Neil Acc and Luke Knight committee court to face trial. April 18, 1996: Trial of 1 Acourt, Luke Knight Gary Dobson begins. ☐ April 25: Identification dence ruled inadmissible.

☐ February 13, 1997: Inqu verdict of unlawful killing.

three acquitted.





Graffiti on the side of a shop on the Brook estate

Mixed reaction in community split by racism

BY DANIEL McGrory, RICHARD DUCE AND KATHRYN KNIGHT

6 We've

been

too long, silence

breeds

racism 5

MANY on the Brook Estate in Eltham, southeast London, claim they know who killed Stephen Lawrence but four years on they still refuse to

tige of the sprawi of semidetached homes built before daubed on the front wall but the owner, who has been there for eight years, said: "It's still

year olds, who shout 'Paki' at us and swear when we refuse to sell them cigareties. Some regard these five as heroes and that should worry us. You do not see many black faces

living here. Those who are put here soon I leave the dear it off the same boys will only do it again if they think it hurts you." His regagreed that policing on the

estate Was no more evident or effective rence's murder.

clared himself a friend of the five named by the Daily Mail, held the paper up and said:
"It's out of order to name these boys when the courts said they didn't do it." Asked if he knews who did, Mr Thans grinned and tapped the side of his nose.

For Il years Laltaben Soni has run a newsagents a short walk from where Stephen Lawrence was murdered but yesterday her cutomers pre-ferred not to be reminded of that "Everyone turned away from those faces. They haunt us all and we are sick of it really because it brands this area as full of racists. The worst we have suffered is verbal abuse and graffiti but we do know some Asian shop

award winning

travel agent or call

yards from her shop Rohit Dugghal, 15, was stabbed to death by a white youth a year before the Lawrence murder. Police and counsellors and

various action groups swore to eradicate racism but what chance: Mrs Soni said. After by at Plumstead station. They happy to show people around but we do not feel it's right at a

time like this " Surinder Cheemar, of the Greenwich Action Committee against racial attacks, said: "Few black families stay on

ers have been driven out by compliant stones through them and their

reported to the

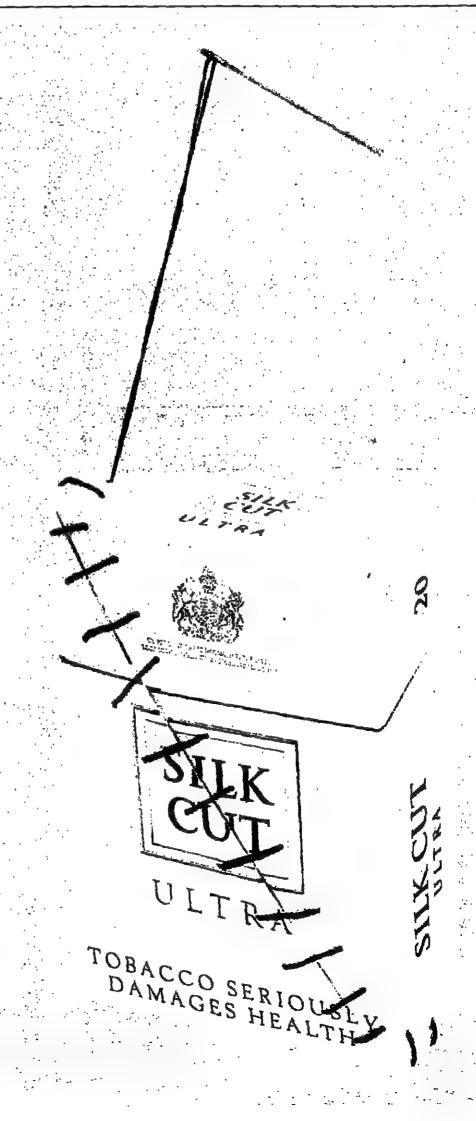
qually. The reality is that Eltham is a no-go area for black people."
The British National Party regards the estate as fertile

A youth worker applauded the Dail Mail's naming of the five and hoped it might shape "We have been compliant for too long, silence breeds rac-ism. It is rooted here, albeit small, but powerful because it

tion and reprisal. Four youths who wandered into an off-licence on the estate pointed to the face of the five Tony Smedley, 22, who elected himself spokes man, protested the five's innoto immigrants being moved into houses in our area Nobody in the shop raised a

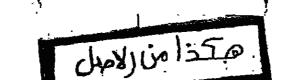
voice in protest. Most of the

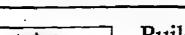
newspapers featuring the five men remained unsold. One man who knew the genuine feeling of shared community shame. The death of Stephen Lawrence has one has been brought to



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Private passions



Did she have an insatiable sexual desire, like Cleopatra, whom she played triumphantly at Stratford? Did her

appetite border on nymphomania, as some said it did? Was she genuinely in love with all the men she slept with? Or could she simply not say no?

Garry O'Connor's blography of Dame Peggy Ashcroft, which rips away her disguise as the virginal "head girl" of English theatre, starts tomorrow

Building forgotten after murder of James III of Scotland

Castle skeleton points to discovery of royal chapel

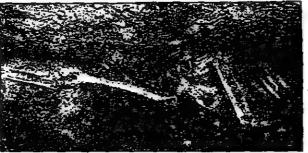
SCOTIAND CORRESPONDENT

ARCHAEOLOGISTS believe they may have found the lost royal chapel of St Michael. where James IV of Scotland confessed to his implication in the assassination of his father,

The whereabouts of the chapel have long been a mystery, but a routine excavation at Stirling Castle, which is undergoing extensive restoration. has uncovered a 500year-old skeleton from a religious burial in the centre of an unknown building under the old Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders' kitchens. The original chapel fell into

disuse after James IV (1473-1513) built the present Chapel Royal at the castle, ostensibly as an act of penitence for his involvement in the death of his father in 1488. The whereabouts of the old chapel beforgotten over the

Chris Watkins, regional di-ector of Historic Scotland,



The skeleton was laid out with feet pointing to the east

ments with Historic Scrtland

and an expert on Stirling Castle, said: "We are trying

not to get too excited, but it's

clear we are dealing with an

archaeologically extremely

nicely with this being the king's personal chapel. We

have always known there

were at one time two chapels

in the castle, one private

chapel for the king and his

family and one for hoi polloi,

which is assumed to have been

on the site of the later Chapel

mportant site.

said the discovery had caused great excitment. There were plans to peel off some of the army building to see if any of the ancient chapel decoration

Archaeologists do not know the identity of the skeleton, a male in his 20s, but the fact that he was given a Christian burial and was carefully laid out, with his feet to the east on the axis of the chapel, suggests was of some importance in the royal household.

Richard Fawcett, principal

have heard at least one mass there every day. He said that the find could necessitate rewriting the castle history Dr Fawrett said James IV

was implicated in the death of his father at Sauchieburn, and apparently suffered agonies of conscience. He wore an iron chain around his waist to which he is said to have added

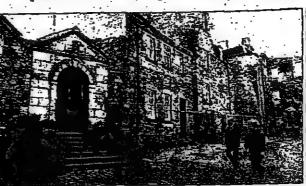
one link every year.

"Certainly one of the rea-sons that he had such a magnificent Chapel Royal built over on the other side of the inner close was in emiation for his involvement," Dr Fawcett said. "It was a burden he carried until he himself died at Flodden."

He added that the truth of what happened at Sauchieburn will never be known. but it certainly looks as if the leaders of the rebellion felt they were getting support from the young prince. It is



Stirling Castle's army kitchens, below left, may be on the site of the old Chapel Royal, where James IV, right, confessed to implication in his father's murder



he spoke about only to his

the building gave credence to it being the old Chapel Royal. The intriguing thing is that it ties in with the alignment of various important buildings. the castle over the years. "It's also on what's probably one of the most prestigious parts of the castle, on one of the highest part of the castle rock. If we're right about it being a chapel, this looks like a burial before the site of the high-

Droppings

t a pretty important one."

It is unlikely the body was a member of the royal family. who were generally buried in the great royal mausoleums at Dunfermline, Holyrood and Arboath. It is hoped that further excavation will providec a clue to his identity.



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drove man to shoot 30 pigeons By A STAFF REPORTER

A COMPANY director shot up to 30 pigeons because he felt their dromings ruining the appearance of his home. Kenneth Anderson killed or maimed the birds with an air gun outside his mews flat in central York.

Peter Tetlow, prosecuting for the RSPCA, told York Magistrates yesterday that Anderson was seen by a neighbour cropching behind the open door of his car holding the rifle. Another neighbour later found two pigeons with pellet wounds. A vet gave the birds urgent help but because of their injuries they had to be hu-manely killed. Tests showed the pellets had been fired from Anderson's rifle.

Anderson admitted two charges of intentionally injuring a wild bird. He was given charge and his gun was confiscated. He was ordered to pay more than £525 costs. Anderson, who represented himself, said the pigeons were vermin and the council had refused to do anything about the problem. He decided to take the law into his own hands and had managed to get rid of a significant number

Nanny held in US jail 'not getting right food'

BY ADRIAN LEE

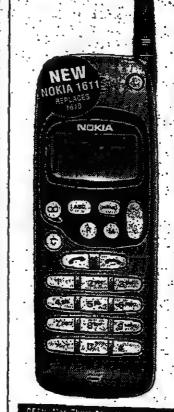
THE father of the British nanny charged with murdering a baby yesterday criticised conditions at the American prison where she is being

Gary Woodward said his daughter Louise, 18, was being refused vegetarian meals and he was not allowed to bring in food from outside. "I can only buy her food from vending machines in the prison which dispense only crisps and chocolate. She can't live on that," Mr Woodward a builder, of Elton, Cheshire, said.

A request by Kathy Tunsley, the British Vice-Consul, that the rules should be relaxed was ignored by the authorities at the Massachusetts Correctional Institute at Framingham, near Boston.

Miss Woodward, who is accused of murdering ninemonth-old Matthew Eappen: has been moved from a solitary unit to a general wing at the all-women prison.

The Vice-Consul said that Miss Woodward had access to a television, video and library. She can also take regular exercise. "I have tried to get the diet changed but they don't make exceptions. She is getting some vegetables and fruit "she said.



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Nanny held

in US jail

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Pilots' strike will leave thousands stranded

By Harvey Elliott, air correspondent AND DAVID ADAMS IN MIAMI

the night in an attempt to prevent tens, possibly hundreds, of thousands of passengers from being stranded by in aviation history.

As aircraft operated by the world's biggest airline, American Airlines, headed towards airports throughout the world pilots were expecting to be called out on strike from 5am today. If they are, no flights by American will leave from 161 airports at which they are due to land until the strike is called

President Clinton was said to be ready to step in to try to resolve the dispute which could seriously damage the standing of the United States and affect both business passengers and holidaymakers in

The strike has been called by more than 9,300 pilots who are complaining over cost cutting measures imposed by

American is hoping to form an alliance with British Airways and was last night trying to find spare seats on other carriers. But many routes especially across the Atlantic - are already fully booked and the chances of finding additional seats are slim.

American operates 16 flights a day to Britain from various parts of America - 12 to Heathrow, two to Gatwick and one each to Manchester and Birmingham. Each of the jets carries an average of 200 passengers, so potentially up to 3,200 passengers a day could be stranded in Britain alone while the strike lasts.

The American pilots claim they are worried about job "outsourcing" and having their pay cut or salary in-creases limited."We have seen this company give routes away to other carriers and lose our pilots their jobs as a result," said Captain David Johnson of the Altied Pilots Association.

The British Airways alliance, he said, would be "a great asset to American Airfoward to. But this manage ment has a record of giving our jobs away and that is something we want to stop". has a fleet of 617 aircraft, said that its pilots' pay averaged \$100,000 (£62,500) last year

with a further profit-sharing bonus of around \$10,000. Talks, said a spokesman, had begun originally on July 1. problems, a tentative agreement was reached in September last year. But the pilots refused to ratify it and a cooling off period which began

on January 16 expires tonight. American Airlines last night formally rejected a latest com-promise offer. Al Comeaux, an airline spokesman, said the offer was not a proposal. "It

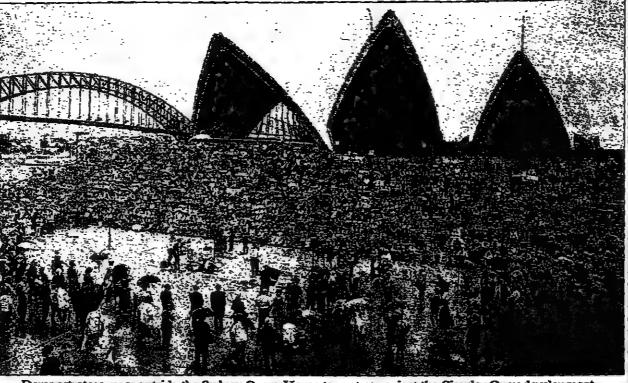
was a bunch of verbiage on paper," he said.
The effect of the dispute has already been felt in Miami, the company's international hub The airline has cancelled many international flights, creating havoc on routes to Latin America and the Carib-

bean where American is the

dominant carrier. Extra police officers are on stand-by at Miami International Airport, in case tempers flare among stranded passengers. Airport officials have another problem: where to put American's stranded planes -100 of them in Miami alone in the event of a shutdown. American is South Florida's dominant international carri-

er, accounting for almost half the flights that land in the city. from destinations all over Latin America, the Caribbean and Europe.

ing," said Bob Booth, a Miami-based regional aviation specialist, "If you take 45 per cent of the capacity out of the market there's just not enough remaining to step in," he said.



Demonstrators mass outside the Sydney Opera House to protest against the Circular Quay development

Sydney condemns blot on historic landmark

Sydney: As Australia primps for the 2000 Olympics, critics complain that

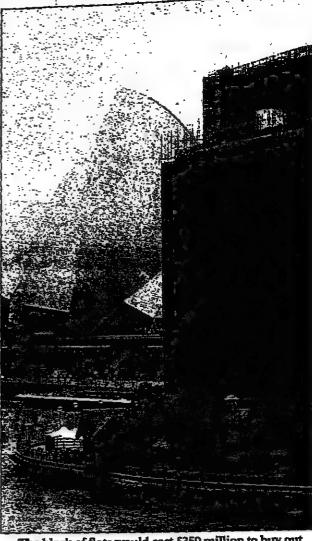
Sydney's showcase opera house is being eclipsed by a block of flats that even city officials now regret permitting.

The huge, 237-apartment block is the first of three large buildings that will form a curtain as tall as the Sydney Opera House, the city's famous land-

from Circular Quay, the site of the first British landing in 1788. At least 2,000 protesters massed yester-

day on the steps of the Opera House to "The (Opera House) building has been severely compromised. It's one of the greatest buildings of the 20th

Herald said the ten people on the committee that approved the plans for the building in 1994 now regret the decision. However, the state Government says it would cost nearly A\$700 million (£350 million) to buy the project



The block of flats would cost £350 million to buy out

Film friend saves Clinton's blushes

FROM GILES WHITTELL IN LOS ANGELES

A LOYAL Arkansas friend has saved President Clinton from humiliation in a forthcoming film version of Primary Colors, the bestseller based on the 1992 Democratic campaign for the White House.

Billy Bob Thornton, who will direct the film, has toned down the book's depiction of a thinly disguised Mr Clinton as volatile, undisciplined and none-too-faithful to his wife, and has admitted seeking the President's blessing before accepting the job.

"I know him very well, and asked if it was OK," Mr Thornton told the daily trade paper Variety after winning two Oscar nominations for The director, who still lives in Arkansas desuite his Holly wood acclaim, said he would not have gone ahead with the project had it meant upsetting Mr Clinton. To avoid presidential displeasure, the Clinton character had been made more endearing than it was originally written", he said.

Primary Colors became the

talk of Washington on its publication last year, partly because of its "anonymous" author, who turned out to be Klein, but also because of its withering insider's portrait of a presidential campaign driv-en by polls, media "spin" and the candidate's cold and manipulative wife.

Tom Hanks, another close friend of the film-loving President and an active supporter down the role of the candidate soon after Mr Klein was revealed as the book's author last summer. He is thought to have been troubled by the idea of lampooning Mr Clinton. The lead will now be played by John Travolta.

'White legion' abandons Zaire

ZAIRE'S "white legion" of 300 mercenaries has been routed by rebels closing in on the central town of Kisangami.

Zaire's Defence Ministry said yesterday that the last of the soldiers of fortune hired by

Kengo wa Dondo, the Prime Minister, were expected to leave Kisangani this weekend. Others had already fled to the Central African Republic.

"A few have been kept back as personal security for President Mobutu, in Gbadolite where he has a palacel. But most, the French, Belgians and Britons, have already gone," a government minister said yesterday.

Government figures said that the mercenaries had been sacked because they had caused morale to plummet in the Zaire Army. Paid about £1.500 a month, the mercenaries were hired to put resolve into the military resisting the rebel advance. Instead, they have been driven out of Watsa and Isiro in the north of Zaire. Their presence in Kisangani --



Mercenaries hired to bolster the Mobutu government are fleeing as the rebels close in, writes Sam Kiley in Kinshasa

where Zairean troops recently received their £1.50-a-month pay in new notes that no one trusts — had become an embarrassment.

The army has ordered that they ger out of the country. The generals never wanted them in the first place," a minister said. Some of the mercenaries were spotted checking out of luxury hotels in Kinshasa

Laurent Kabila, the rebel leader, has claimed to have killed at least 30 mercenaries and said that any captured would be shot on the

Government forces have abandoned an area about 1,000 miles by 500 miles

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civil war which intensified three months ago. The failing defences of Ki-

sangari were mirrored by the

collapse of morale in the capital, Kinshasa, yesterday. The personality cult built up over the past 30 years around Mr Mobutu, now battling advanced prostate cancer, has all but evaporated. You know, we should negotlate with Kabila [the rebel

leader]. If they talk, then we can have elections and get rid of this President. He is finished." volunteered a senior secretary at the interior Ministry. A few years ago, such a statement would have earned her a trial for treason:

Zaire's administration, security system and military.

machine has ground to a halt while the country awaits the outcome of the war.

Mr Mobutu's trump card is his special Presidential Division. The 20.000-strong force, the best trained in the country. though useless on the battlefield, has been pulled out of the frontline and is now based around Kinshasa.

That means he can keep the lid on what happens in the capital. There are growing signs that if he did not have the force here the citizens would simply declare the President defunct, and open negotiations with the rebels," one

The new head of the army, General Marc Mahele, a respected martinet, is fast emerging as a frontrunner to replace Mr Mobutu in a coup. ☐ Kigali: A Rwandan coun vesterday sentenced to death Froduald Karamira, a former political leader found guilty of being a ringleader of the 1994 would appeal. (Reuter)

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the places you can go to was published on Monday. Perhaps this is an opportunity to visit a new country or you may thoose to return to a favourite city and enjoy savings of up to 50%. All the fare prices listed right are for two people travelling together. THE TIMES LUFTHANSA FLIGHTS Attach six differently numbered tokens to this form; five from The Times, and one from The Sunday Times. Complete the details below and post it, to arrive by Monday March 3, 1997, to: The Times/Lufthansa Flights Offer, 99 Charterhouse Street, London EC1M 6HR.

Death bid fails -and succeeds gant herd **Boldier** A.

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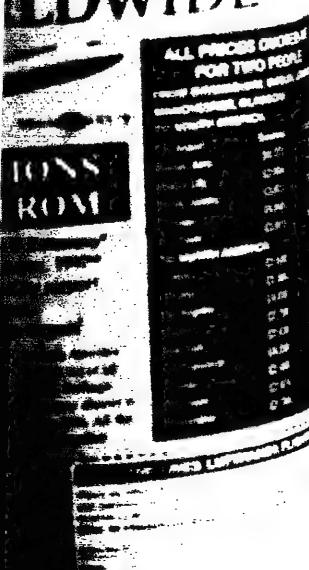
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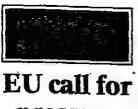
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pressure on Burma

THE European Union called yesterday on the Association of South-East Asian Nations to step up pressure on Burma to end human rights violations and return the country to democracy (Michael Bin-

The issue was at the centre of talks in Singapore between EU foreign minis-ters and Asean leaders.

£16,500 stamps lost at fair

Hong Kong: Two stamp collections, worth about £16,500, were reported missing at a philately fair here. A British dealer lost an album containing 1,000 King George V stamps after a people crowded round his stand, while a Russian collector reported the loss of about 300 Chinese stamps. (AFP)

Up to 35 die at Lake Victoria

Nairobi: About 35 people were feared drowned after a motorboat capsized on Lake Victoria. Police said only four bodies had been recovered but five passengers survived by clinging to debris. It is unclear how many were on board but it is thought that the boat was overloaded. (Reuter)

Death bid fails — and succeeds

Mount Olive: A prisoner in this West Virginia town. who tried to commit suicide by putting his head into a power saw blade before being restrained, suffered a fatal heart attack while he was being interviewed later by a psychiatrist. (AP)

Elephant herd kills soldier

Johannesburg: A soldier was trampled to death when about 70 elephants rampaged through a camp in the Kruger National Park in South Africa. He was patrolling for illegal immigrants from Mozam-bique (Reuter)

Chilli torture

Delhi: The seven Indian police officers accused of blinding detainees with chilli powder to extract confessions in Gujarat have been suspended, reports here said. (AFP)

Bodyguard reveals ailing Yeltsin now needs help to walk

convince the public that Mr

BORIS YELTSIN is unable to walk unaided for more than a few yards, suffers periodically from incontinence, and is showing signs of Parkinson's disease, according to a member of his security service.

"Due to problems with his legs, Boris Yeltsin is often incapable of moving around independently, the official told journalists from a Moscow news agency, who told The Times. "Sometimes the President cannot walk unaided for more than a few dozen yards." The official said that bodyguards accompanying Mr Yeltsin carried a folding chair to allow him to rest.

The source said Mr Yeltsin, who was 66 this month, also suffered bouts of incontinence, and his doctors were increas-ingly concerned with emerg-ing symptoms of Parkinson's

as the State Duma, the lower house of parliament, passed a resolution demanding that the Health Ministry and the President's doctors provide a writ-ten assessment of Mr Yeltsin's health by March 1.

At a Kremlin briefing yes-terday Sergei Yastrzhembsky, the presidential spokesman, said such information would be made available "without Despite a huge effort by the

The latest revelation came

Yeltsin's recovery is going well, his failure to return to full-scale work after suffering pneumonia last month has led to growing doubts about his ability to run the country. Mr Yeltsin has been under

medical supervision almost constantly since his re-election for a second term last July, and underwent a quintuple heart bypass operation in November. He returned to the Kremlin just before the new year, but was back in hospital two weeks later with pneumonia. Since then has made only occasional appearances in his office for televised meetings senior government

Asked about his health yesterday, Mr Yastrzhembsky insisted that Mr Yeltsin's convalescence was going well and there was no reason for concern. In a further effort to Mr Yeltsin broadcast a radio address to the nation yesterday, his first of the year.

In a pre-recorded six-minute speech, he called on the new leadership of the breakaway republic of Chechnya to respect human rights, rejected calls for constitutional amendments and assured pensioners of continued state protection. He spoke clearly, without the slurring that has often affected voice sounded weak and old. Doubts about the President's recovery were renewed this week when Mr Yastrzhemb-sky conceded that his convalescence was going slowly and that it would take a further ten to 15 days before Mr Yeltsin could return to work.

A planned trip to The Hague at the beginning of the month to meet European Union leaders was cancelled at short notice because doctors advised Mr Yeltsin against flying. In March, the President had been due to fly to Washington to meet President Clinton, but the meeting is now due to take place in Helsinki. The Finnish capital is only a 90-minute flight from Moscow and, if necessary, Mr Yeltsin could travel there by

A European Union-Russia summit postponed because of President Yeltsin's ill health will take place in Moscow on March 3, a European Commission spokesman said yes terday in Brussels.

Mr Yeltsin's doctors insist his latest health problems have nothing to do with his heart trouble and that there is no reason why he should not resume a fully active life. But his progress since his operation has been extremely uneven. Opposition politicians have repeatedly called for him to step down.



Stephen Godfrey, a Canadipalacontologist, exam-a 220-million-year-old fossil in Sydney yesterday Scientists believe the fossil, recently found in southwest Australia, could be that of a species of amphibian, pro-

Scientists hail Australian fossil

related to today's frogs and salamanders (Roger May-nard writes). The specimen, which is being hailed as

fossil find this century, will be on show to the public from today. When found, it was embedded in a 1.6 tonne sandstone boulder delivered from a New South Wales quarry to a farmer building a terrace near Gosford, north of Sydney.

Decision on Brck defuses tensions

FROM TOM WALKER

A HECTIC round of inte tional diplomacy pulled nia from the brink of rene conflict yesterday as inte tional arbitrators decided the contested northern po Brcko should remain u international supervision another year.

nown's displaced Muslim munity dissipated in the a noon, as news filtered thro from Rome that arbitra had decided the present p was too fragile a commodi meddle with significantly The Bosnian Serbs. "cleansed" Broko near start of the war in 1992, remain in charge of the their territory. The rub is a heavy American Stabi tion Force presence, cou with an international sup sor, should ensure the return of Muslims to wrecked homes.

. ne deal is fraught with well-meaning platitudes have so far conspicuo failed to reunite Bosnia. vesterday at least thos Broko seemed resigned giving it a try. Ther nothing to worry about," Miodrag Pajic, the Mayo

Diplomats say the inte tional supervisor, wor under UN High Represe tive Carl Bildt, is likely t American, with the Euro Union overseeing the

Gloomy prognosis

three score years and ten was the allotted human life span: then, as now, there is a wide variation.

people in the Western world live rather beyond 70, but others by virtue of their lifestyle, hereditary or other disease, peter out earlier. Whatever their age, the disintegration of someone's phy-sique is asually merchally hidden from the public gaze by the privacy provided by living in a private household. There is no privacy if the patient is a President, and one by one President Yeltsin's

long-standing myxoedema (poor thyroid function), a myxoedema least two heart attacks, and is reputed to have been a recurrent binge drinker and so despite the heady optimism of the American surgeon Dr Michael DeBakey — made, as most doctors predicted, a slow and poor recovery from his

Plain Speaking Home Insurance

the operation was in all probability bilateral pulmonary congestion brought on by heart failure, rather than the signs of a post-operative

Since the surgery Mr Yeltsin's Parkinson's-type symptoms have become very much more pronounced; to-day it is reported that he finds it difficult to walk unaided more than a few varils.

The President is also said to find it hard to control his bladder. The signs and symp-

The development of acute heart failure in an older man

In the 20th century most

bodily systems start to fail.

Mr Yeltsin, 66, has had

for frail President multiple bypass surgery. The "pneumonia" which followed THE BIBLE suggested that

toms are all evidence of a post-operative period and hi prognosis must, in the medical euphemistic term, remain

is always worrying; one recent survey suggested that there was a near 50 per cent mortality within a year.

DR THOMAS STUTTAFORD

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Doubts over succession threaten Golan talks

By CHRISTOPHER WALKER, MIDDLE EAST CORRESPONDENT, AND BRONWEN MADDOX IN WASHINGTON

most autocratic regimes in the Middle East, are facing internal disruption and serious succession problems which threaten widespread instability for the entire region.

health and clan rivalry within the ruling families who run the countries in a ruthless fashion using different wings of the Baath Party.

Following reports from Da-mascus that President Assad, 66, had recently been in a revived by Russian doctors, the Jordanian paper Shihan yesterday described how doctors had struggled to bring the President back to consciousness and described his health

Haaretz, the Israeli daily, disclosed that, according to American information, Assad's condition is poor and has tate surgery early in January". This scenario, backed by reports in a number of non-Syrian Arab papers, con-tradicts official Syrian claims

has returned to a full working schedule. He has appeared in weak and pale.

The man widely known as "The Sphinx of Damascus" The troubles spring from ill has suffered for years from a combination of heart trouble. diabetes and a rare type of leukaemia, but has repeatedly defied speculation about his imminent demise.

The President's weakness is



Assad: said to have

SYRIA and Iraq, two of the that Mr Assad is healthy and accompanied by concern that, since the death in 1994 of his favoured eldest son, Bassel, in a mysterious car crash, there is no obvious successor. Mr Assad, who seized power in 1970, has been grooming his younger son, Bashar, 31, who was ordered to abandon his

> In Iraq, the brutal regime of President Saddam Hussein has been rocked by the attempted assassination last De-cember of Uday, 33, Saddam's oldest son and chosen successor. Uday is now confined indefinitely to a Baghdad hospital bed with two bullets thought to be lodged in his spine. Despite hundreds of executions and thousands of arrests, Uday's two attackers have not been found. Saddam's hopes for the succession have turned to Qusay.

medical studies in London.

In Washington, President Clinton called on Israel and Syria to return to the negotiating table as part of a White House bid to regain momenturn in Middle East peace

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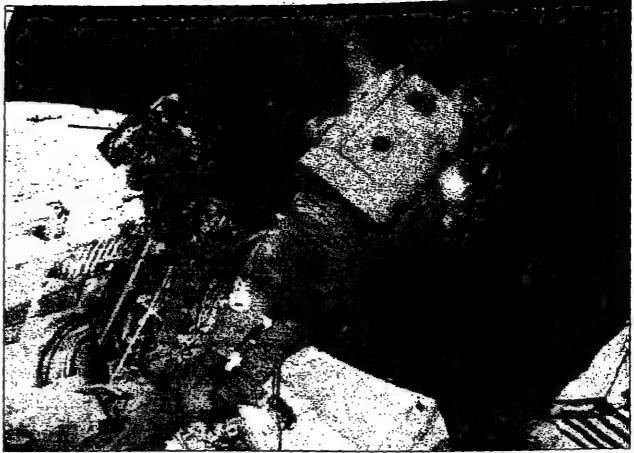
the younger of his two sons.

Binyamin Netanyahu, the Isracii Prime Minister, for three hours on Thursday signalled that Israeli-US relations were back on track after three tense meetings which failed to make progress towards a compre-

hensive Middle East peace.

Mr Netanyahu also used the meeting to repeat his alarm at a proposed sale of 102 F16 fighter jets to Saudi Arabia, worth up to \$15 billion (£9 billion), which Israel argues would dangerously boost the kingdom's ground-attack capability. Israeli-Syrian talks were

suspended last year, but both sides now appear more willing to contemplate a resumption. The previous Israeli Government offered to return virtually all of the disputed Golan Heights to Syria in exchange for full diplomatic and economic relations and guarantees of security. Mr Netanyahu has proposed returning a smaller slice of the area, but indicates that he is prepared to esuszi ils zzues



Steven Smith, foreground, and Mark Lee, carrying out the most expensive overhaul pe 370 miles from the

Space craftsmen fix Hubble

attached new instruments to

the universe (Quentin Letts writes). New cameras the size of household fridges

place on the telescope by the spacewalking astronauts, it took them seven hours to dip the new devices on to the telescope, which has travelled about 996 million miles since it was last inspected.

and were manocuvred into-

McVeigh sister **'talked** of bomb'

PROM GLES WHITTELL IN LOS ANGELES

FOUR months before the Oklahoma City bombing in 1995, the sister of the chief suspect in the case warned her friends at a Christmas party that a "revolution" was coming in which "something big is going to happen with my brother, according to court documents unsealed this

Jennifer McVeigh, who as the younger sister of Timothy McVeigh is expected to be a crucial witness in her brothabout "weapons stuff", "bomb stuff and a need to overthrow the federal Government, two guests told the FBI.

There's going to be a revolution and you're either going to be with us or against us. I know I'm ready," Ms McVeigh was quoted as saying. Joel Daniels, her attorney, said even if she made anti-povernment statements at the party it was not criminal: The bomb explosion in April

1995 killed 168 people and injured 500. The attack took place exactly two years after the botched raid by federal agents on the Branch Davidian cult headquarters in Waco, Texas.

Vogue for chain gang spreads to Maryland

BY IAN BRODIE

AMERICA'S new vogue for chain gangs is moving north.

A county bordering Chesapeake Bay in Maryland has become the latest local authority to decide that the way to get tough with prisoners is to manacie them together and send them along roads to pick up litter and clear ditches.

The move has been denounced as "needlessly cruel" by a lawyer for the local chapter of the American Civil Liberties Union, who said she might sue to stop the plan. gangs represent the Old South at its worst. You don't deter crime by treating people es animals and parading

them around in chains." The view was not shared by Mike Zimmer, one of three commissioners in Queen Anne's County who voted unanimously to introduce the chain gangs. In his view they add the penalties of hard work and public shame to sentences and are a warning to children who drive past with families.

The jail has 70 to 80 inmates at a time who will be put into chain gangs of a dozen each. Women prisoners will be on

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about to be moved. This

incident happened all of a

sudden, so we need more time

to investigate," said Mr Qian

after meeting his South Kore-

an counterpart, Yoo Chong

Ha, in Singapore, where Asian and European foreign

ministers are holding a confer-

ence. Other meetings are expected before a decision on Mr

Diplomats say China is

caught over the issue, having long-standing fraemal ties with the socialist North and

more recent, but vibrant, trade

with the South. North and

South Korea have sent high-level delegations to lay claim to Mr Hwang. The North has sent officials from the ruling

Workers' Party and the For-

ted National Front of Turke-

Chinese officials said on

Thursday that the riot had

been "fomented by hostile foreign forces" but had been

quelled by the army and police. The officials have said

nine people were killed and

50 of them seriously. (Reuter)

commercial relations,

Hwang's fate is reached.

Rifkin

retreat o

legislatu

BRITAIN has backed

on its threat to take Cl

the International Co

Justice over its shadow

After talks with M Rifkind, the Foreign

tary, yesterday, Qian (

China's Foreign Ministr

the matter "is now close

This reverses John M

promise to Hong Kor

year that Britain would

Beijing legally responsil abolished the elected L

tive Council which Chr

ten, the Governor, has the "benchmark" of

Kong's continued liber

prosperity. Mr Rifkind, describin

elf as realistic, said:

Chinese are determine maintain the Provisiona

islature then they have

power to do so becaus

are the sovereign power British officials attemp

put a positive spin on the

by saying that Britain

focused the international

munity's concern on

Kong. The officials also comfort from Mr Qian's

in Hong Kong will be a n

for Tung Chee-hwa, the

Executive-designate and

administration. But Mr

has already aligned hi

ture for Hong Kong.

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fears for his life in Beijing siege that the North Koreans will stop at almost nothing to prevent Mr Hwang, a former confidant of the North Korean leader, Kim Jong Il. from leaving for South Korea.

Once there he would be able to speak about past North Korean state terrorism, ranging from the blowing up of a South Korean delegation in Rangoon to the destruction of airliners and the submarine incursion late last year into the South Kim Jong Il's 55th birthday celebrations tomorrow have almost certainly been dampened by the defec-tion, and fears of revelations about his reportedly lurid former personal life. A Chinese driver outside the

South Korean Consulate in Beijing said the driver of a North Korean vehicle had told him: "If we see Hwang, we will kill him."

Mr Hwang feared for his life after falling foul of Kim Jong II, according to letters said to have been written by him, which were published by a Seoul newspaper yesterday.

The letters say that he made up his mind to defect

The leadership's suspilast May after being attacked by the North Korean leadership and placed under surveillance "on the pretext my thoughts are not suitable for leadership



Chinese police march past a bulletproof vehicle outside the South Korean Consulate in Beijing yesterday

North Korea's governing

The 73-year-old secretary of the ruling Workers' Party in charge of international affairs was clearly alarmed by Mr Kim's paranoia, which grew more intense as economic woes undermined his hold on

cions and jealousy have become far more severe with the economy being ruined and the being further

weakened," Mr Hwang wrote. The three letters were written in November last year, and delivered to an intermediary in January through an aide who also applied for political asylum at the South Korean Embassy in Beijing on Wednesday.

The South Korean Government has said the letters are authentic, though many Koreans detect the hand of the state security apparatus in arrang-

Mr Hwang, an architect of the North's guiding philoso-phy of juche — self-reliance — intended to defect by April this year, apparently expecting to be falsely accused and purged

from his official positions. "It is better for my family and colleagues for me to kill myself rather than getting killed after being publicly criticised with materials fabricated by the leadership."

The crisis would occur some time "after a big event" in

February, he leared, possibly referring to the 55th birthday

"Until the February big event, the leadership will use me and prevent any disturbances from happening, but after that time, I cannot say what will happen to me." Mr Hwang apparently wrote. South Korean officials said

Mr Hwang had hoped to defect during his visit to Japan, which ended on Tuesday, but found no opportunity

with Peking's plans The Foreign Secretary tented himself with repe his warning that if (pressed ahead with cha which include deep cuts Bill of Rights, Hong would "become like any Chinese city". The climbdown had

foreshadowed earlier week by comments from nese officials. Shen Guo the Foreign Ministry sp man, said in Peking tha Oian would not discus international court in Hague and would insist Britain stop misleading eigners and creating controversies.

In Singapore yesterday Rifkind said: "For the Int tional Court to have jur tion it must have agreement of both sides. is not available, so we as in a position to be insiste

'Hongcouver' becomes Asian haven

FROM IAN BRODIE IN VANCOUVER

a tense stand-off over a

But there were no immedi-

ate signs that the defector,

Hwang Jang Yop, 72, who

knows the innermost secrets of

the Pyongyang regime, was

Alma Ata: Leaders of an

exiled nationalist group in

Kazakhstan said yesterday

nantly Muslim northwest

were continuing, despite Beijing's statement that dis-

turbances had been quelled.

early for Beijing to announce

that the riots have been neutralised," Yusupbek

"We are sure that it is too

Kazakusian sama s predomitiat riots in China's predomitiat riots in China's predomitiation morthwest

Muslim riots 'not over

THIS week, after four years in Vancouver. Wai Fu Ma put on his new charcoal grey suit, pinned a carnation to his lapel and went down to the convention centre overlooking the harbour to pledge allegiance to the "Queen

In reciting the oath at a mass swearing in ceremony, he followed the path taken by 300,000 others from Hong Kong who have chosen Canadian citizenship in the last decade in anticipation of China's takeover of the

At 23, Mr Wai seems the ideal immigrant. He is a business student with fluent English. His well-to-do family has invested in Canada. "We think it's a better place to live," he said. Yet he may, for example, return to Hong Kong to work. Canadian government figures show that somewhere between 100,000 and 150,000 have gone back after securing the insurance

policy of a Canadian passport. " Canada would have to bear the brunt of any massive loss of confidence in Hong Kong's future. In such an emergency, some 300,000 would have the right to join close relatives already in Canada, according to Don Devoretz, a Vancouver immigration expert.

The impact of immigration from Hong Kong has already been felt keenly across Canada, especially in Vancouver, Canada's princely city on the Pacific has become, in effect, a

Hong Kong in waiting. Its Chinese community has doubled to 250,000 one in five of the population - giving rise to the nickname "Hongcouver and creating a framework that could rapidly expand.

The Chinese presence is not like the Chirlatowns of old. The immigrant community is as energetic and upwardly mobile as much of Hong Kong itself. Vancouver's Chinese have their choice of supermarkets and shopping malls, three daily newspapers, two television channels and two radio stations. They can work, eat out, see a doctor, consult a lawyer and buy a car without ever speaking English.

But the immigrant tide has brought an undertow of cross-cultural currents. including crime, spiralling property

prices and white resentment. Vancouver now has the costliest housing in

The flow of migrants back to Hong Kong is a concern. David Lam. who emigrated from the colony years ago and became Lieutenant-Governor of British Columbia, chided Mr Wai and the others at the swearing-in ceremony. "You must burn the mental bridge to your old country," he told them. "Don't take the casual attitude of "I can

come, I can go".

Still, the authorities are eager to assuage Chinese sensitivities. They instantly agreed to a name change after a Chinese civic leader complained about a remote stretch of water 500 miles north of Vancouver. It had been called Chinaman Lake

Patten's Valentine bids fond farewell will be the hardest of any, i

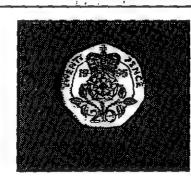
Hong Kong Chris Patten, the Governor of Hong Kong, received an anonymous Valentine's Day greeting, causing an alde to reflect on whether he might have a secret admirer among China's Communist leaders.

The greeting appeared as an advertisement in the daily Hong Kong Standard and said: To Beloved Brit Governor Patten. If once in a lifetime a wish could come true, I would open the door for you to walk through, the heartaches in this case is many. But the day I lose you

only wanted you. Love."

"This is probably from some secret admirer in the hierarchy in Beijing," Mr Patten's spokesman But I take it that it's not from Lu Ping."
Little love has been lost

between the Governor and Mr Lu, China's chief of policy on the handover of Hong Kong to Chinese rule on July The two have frequently traded verbal attacks on issues such as the future of democracy and human rights in the territory. (Reuter)







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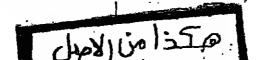
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Mayor of Paris faces corruption inquiry

JEAN TIBERI, the Mayor of Paris, faces imminent investigation on suspicion of corruption, according to a magazine report which drew angry denials from the Mayor yesterday and sent fresh tremors through the ruling Gaullist interfering with the ongoing

M Tiberi's wife, Xavière, is already under investigation on charges that she was overpaid by a regional authority to the tune of FFr200,000 (EZI,500) for writing a short and unnecessary report. The money was paid into a joint bank account belonging to M and Mme Tiberi, Le Point magazine reported, directly implicating the Mayor in the

scandal for the first time. The magazine said that the evidence, uncovered by magistrates Chantal Solaro and Dominique Pauthe and showing that the Tiberis had equal access to the funds, means that a formal investigation into M Tiberi's role in the affair is likely to be launched within the next few days.

The Mayor, who would come under intense pressure

target of a full legal investigation, issued a statement yesterday insisting the report was "totally false" and vowing to sue the magazine. "Once again, the spread of false information based on rumour is not only injuring me, but

Xavier Dugoin, the Gaullist head of the Essonne regional authority which allegedly

investigation of a case," M

overpaid paid Mme Tiberi in 1994 for writing the report, recently told magistrates that the fee was personally negotiated by her husband. M Dugoin, who is also being investigated, later retracted

M Tiberi took over from Jacques Chirac as Mayor of Paris in May 1995, and the case involving his wife has opened up a gulf between the mayoral office and the Gov-



Xavière and Jean Tiberi: had equal access to funds

are said to be outraged that the Justice Ministry has not done more to quash the investigation, but in his most recent televised address, President Chirac pledged to overhaul the legal system and ensure that the Government could not interfere with legal invest-

"The magistrates are inde-pendent," the Mayor was re-portedly told. "So there is nothing to be done."

Mme Tiberi's lawyer, Thier

ry Herzog, this week filed a motion for the investigation against her to be dropped. Government insiders say that if M Tiberi is brought down, a far more damaging scandal over alleged illegal party funding could blow open, reaching to the very top of the French Government.

Investigating magistrates are separately looking into allegations that contractors paid bribes into Gaullist party coffers in exchange for lucra-tive contracts when M Chirac was Mayor of Paris and M Tiberi was in charge of the city housing office.



A 150-year era of steam power is coming to an end in India. Except for enthusiasts, few will mourn its passing

India's steam trains shunted to scrapyard by clean machines FROM CHRISTOPHER THOMAS IN DELHI

INDIA announced yesterday that it will soon be sending the last of its steam trains to the scrapyard, ending a 150-year

Western Railways, where many of the remaining steam. engines operate on little-used country lines in Gujarat, will shunt 40 trains to the junkyards in the next two months. They will be replaced by diesel engines, which are fast-er, cleaner, cheaper to run and easier to maintain.

The passing of steam may be lamented by enthusiasts, but not by the men who have to work with it. Drivers and firemen have nothing good to say about steam trains, they are ill-maintained and full of rust because the Railways Ministry has for yours refused

summer is unbearable. Staff complain that it takes hours to fire up the boilers in and that the trains must be coaxed through days punctuash and dealing with constant

Steam "toy trains" that ply to the hill stations of Darjeeling and Ootacamund - better known in India as Ooty will be reprieved until 2000, reviewed. They are popular with tourists. These will be the survivors of the world's greatest fleet of steam trains, which helped to make India a nation and was crucial in the postindependence drive for induslin

⁰⁸⁰⁰ 591 50

The last broad-gauge steam trains were scrapped in 1995, leaving 260 smaller steam engines travelling the backwaters. Many have been relegated to shunting duties because their notorious unreliability plays havoc with timetables. There are now fewer than 100 left, remnants of a steam fleet of 8,500 engines at its peak in the 1970s. The diesel and electric fleet is now a record 13,000

to grow. New lines are being built and passenger volume increases yearly. Steam is seen as an embarrassment to the world's most used, and second largest, rail network -40,000 miles against Russia's 50,000. It carries 18 million people a day, many of them for a pittance the third class fare for the 900-mile fourney from Delhi to Calcutta costs £6, making it the transportation of the poor. The better-off travel in air-conditioned First



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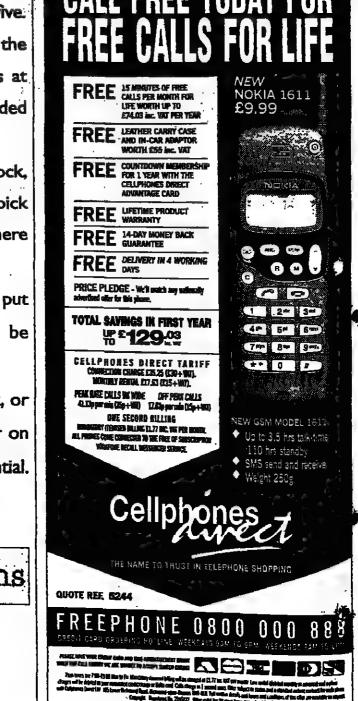
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Albanians blame former surgeon for savings crisis and accuse him of reviving one-party state

Doctor loses healing touch

consequences of last May," said an Albanian journalist as we took refuge from a street protest in a Tirana cafe this week. Berisha's party used fraud to win the elections in May. Now he is reaping the whirlwind. These riots are not just about the pyramid funds, they are about the way he runs Albania. We are back to

After a month of upheaval this view is growing, even within Mr Berisha's right-wing Democratic Party, wing Democratic Party, which has a virtual monopoly on power. The left-wing parnes have joined other opposition groups in a "Forum for Democracy". Mr Berisha, 52, a dapper former heart surgeon who opposed and then succeeded the Communist regime which ruled Albania for decades, is looking tired and grim. "Time to go, doctor," said the opposition paper

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NO ANNUAL FEE

Koha Jone yesterday. Yet there is no alternative

ONE man is watching events unfold with

particular interest: Leka Zogu, son of the late

King Zog and exiled heir to the Albanian throne, who lives in Johannesburg and likes to

be addressed as "Your Majesty". He thinks his

TIRANA FILE by RICHARD OWEN

tells visitors at the presidential palace on the monumental Boulevard of the Martyrs. "I cannot produce a modern European economy and culture overnight." He points out that there is a free press, that he stepped in to close down pyramid saving funds as soon as it became clear they were heading for collapse, and he insists his Democratic Party

won the election fairly.

The Opposition has able leaders, including Rexhap Mejdanl, the Socialist (ex-Communist) Secretary-Gen-eral, and Kurt Kola, a political prisoner under the Communists and now head of the Forum For Democracy. But the Socialists are still tarred with the brush of the

detested former regime and

the protests lack direction. Nevertheless. Albanians are genuinely angered and dismayed by Mr Berisha's crushing of all demonstrations, and the beating of opposition intellectuals - including Mr Kola - by rightwing thugs. Mr Berisha's attempts to blame all protests on "the Reds" have worn thin. Above all, Albanians con-

demn Mr Berisha's closeness to the businessmen who operated the discredited funds, many of which were used by the Albanian and Italian Mafia for money-laundering.

The new entrepreneurs are certainly colourful. Frim Gerxhalliu, manager of the failed Gjallica fund in the port Heir to King Zog waits in wings

imposing man with short, swept-back grey

hair, Leka Zogu, 57. left Albania as a baby in

1939, when the Italians invaded. He tried to

return four years ago but was not allowed in.

If he did return now he says he would not

take his mother, wife or 14-year-old son

by some of the worst protests, ties - or was, before he was arrested. He says the hotels, supermarkets and petrol stations built by the funds were meant to point the way for Albania out of its squalor and

n Lushnje, people still have touching faith in Rrapush Xhaferri, a former Commu-nist-era soldier who became one of Albania's leading and most popular capitalists. Mr Xhaferri — now also in jail owns a business empire and runs the Miss Albania contest and the Lushnje football team. His status as local hero was confirmed when he imported the Argentine football

star Mario Kempes as coach.
Another tycoon, Vehbi
Alimucaj, owns the Vefa empire, embracing supermarand hotels, food processing, aviation and shipping, bitumen mines and chicken farms. Mr Berisha insists entrepreneurs such as Mr Alimucaj — who runs a Lear jet and lives in a restored Italian colonial-era villa in Tirana - are "important contributors to the economy".

Pellumb Sehaj, a former apparatchik who runs the Italian-backed Silva empire. says he has earned the six Mercedes-Benzes in his garage, and that Albanians should "erect gold statues of Berisha and myself, to thank



President Berisha, once praised for his role in ending the Communist dictatorship

Fun with toys of a tyrant

SOME of the more grotesque monuments of the Commu-nist era have long gone: the huge statue of the paranoid dictator, Enver Hoxha, on Skanderbeg Square has made way for a children's funfair, which now makes an incongruous background to anti-Berisha protests.

Some are harder to get rid of: the peculiar concrete gun emplacements, or bunkers, which Hoxha built to ward off invasion still dot the countryside. But perhaps the strangest Hoxha-era relic is the museum to his glory opposite the presidential palace. A UFO-like, pyramidshaped structure of glass and marble, it was designed for Hoxha's 80th birthday in 1988 by his daughter. Pranvera, an architect.

In its heyday it was lit by rays from a red star on top. casting an eeric glow over a carved figure of Hoxha seated inside. The monument is no longer illuminated, and the Hoxha memorabilia have gone. The authorities have made it into a rather drab business and cultural centre. But its main function is to provide amusement for Tirana's children, who slide, skateboard, and even bicycle down its smooth slopes, oblivious to the which created it.

because it is "too dangerous". He said his son, In a message to Albanians, he urged his also called Leka, was "the heir apparent if "brothers and sisters" to "make your demands anything happens to mer. through peaceful demonstrations". A tall, Tintin's chums find a new villain

FROM CHARLES BREMNER IN BRUSSELS



Tintin: "legacy belongs to all Belgium"

TINTIN, the intrepid boy reporter, has landed in a new scrape 13 years after the death of his Belgian creator and, as often in his adventures, the villain is an Englishman.

Nick Rodwell, a Briton who married Fanny Remi, the widow of Herge three years ago and now runs the global Tintin business, has been denounced by a battery of heavyweight critics and writers for the "moral hi-jacking" of their

Tintin in Danger," said yesterday's La Libra Belgique in a front-page editorial, ac-cusing Mr Rodwell's Herge Foundation of striking a blow at "a heritage which belongs to

all Belgium . . . and to human-ity. Mr Rodwell, 42, is charged by the Tintinologists, a serious crowd given the comic strip's Continental revered status as high art, with applying Vatican style control on books written about their hero and his chums, Captain Haddock. Snowy the dog and the Thompson detectives.

Mr Rodwell is also alleged to be desecrating the temple through the merchandising of Tintin memorabilia. Tintin is treated today like

a brand name, a simple product turned into luxury products that are getting more and more expensive," complained Benott Peeters, a renowned

Hergé critic. Albert Algoud, author of the successful Illustrated Haddock, complained that Mr Rodwell had blocked his latest book, a study of the Thompson twins, by refusing permission to reproduce any illustrations.

"I don't see how our books could be less legitimate than the trade in printed socks, bank cards for Japan ..., he grumbled at a Brussels press conference. Mr Peeters announced that frustration had forced him to end The Moulinsart Library, a collec-tion of Tintin-related studies which he has edited. The news made the front page of yesterday's La Monde.

Mr Rodwell is also accused of excessive zeal in the pursuit of royalties for reproduction of Tintin's image in publicity for bookshops and exhibitions of the comic-strip art. Mr Rodwell, 42, a former

advertising man, was unavailable for comment yesterday but the foundation and Moulinsart, the company that runs the merchandising, are insisting that they are simply trying to preserve the Tintin

heritage. Hergé, whose real name was Georges Rémi, left strict orders in his will that no sequel should be written to the 23 Tintin books he turned out from the 1930s to the 1960s.

landmine ban

Vienna: Governments and pressure groups yesterday hailed as a success a forum to start the ball rolling for a total worldwide landmines ban. Thomas Hajnoczi, head of disarmament at the Austrian Foreign Ministry and chairman of the forum, said its draft could be the basis for

negotiations.

The three-day conference was attended by more than 100 government experts and was part of the so-called "Ottawa process", started in October at a 50-nation forum hosted by Canada. A followup conference is planned in Brussels in June, with a further meeting in Ottawa in

Progress over | Human rights 'central to Labour policy'

By Michael Binyon, diplomatic editor sanctions against Burma. On

LABOUR would make human rights central to its foreign policy, with a tougher stance towards Nigeria and Burma and insistence that human rights remain on the agenda in discussions with China. Robin Cook says in an

The Shadow Foreign Secretary, outlining Labour's priorities in a forthcoming issue of the magazine Diplomat, accuses the Government of ineffectiveness and lack of direction. Labour would push for oil sanctions against Nigeria and would join European Union members in supporting

China, Mr Cook says he has himself raised the case of three dissidents durings talks there last May. "I believe that it is very important in dialogue with China that we should keep the issue of human rights on the agenda." But he makes it clear that Labour would try to develop a

working relationship" with China to give Britain a basis to demand that China adhere to commitments on Hong Kong. The number one priority of British foreign policy must be to safeguard the future of Hong Kong.

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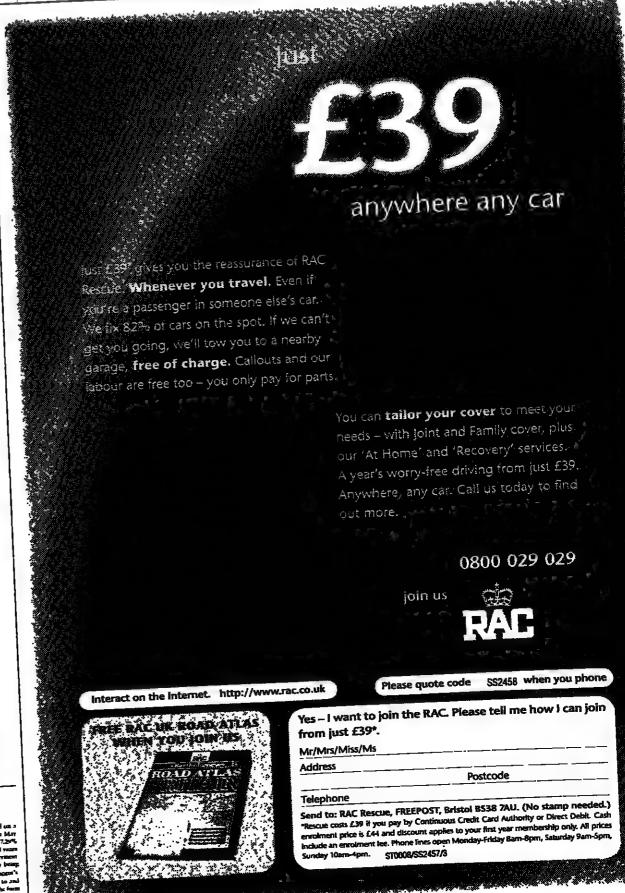
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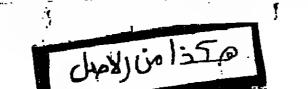
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DANCE

The Royal Ballet steps into the modern world in Twyla Tharp's Push Comes to Shove



AWARDS

View from the stalls: a year in the life of an Olivier Award judge





WHAT'S ON

From the Young Vic's staging of Arthur Miller's great tragedy, Death of a Salesman



WHAT'S ON

:. to Suede in concert all the top weekend events are listed in The Directory

THEATRE: Who judges the Olivier Awards? James Pickard finds out

lisabeth Hart has been to the theatre in I year. She has read 55 programmes, seen 55 curtains rise and eaten an undisclosed number of ice-creams. On every visit she had to write page after page of notes, but she is not a professional theatre critic. She is an ordinary member of the public on the judging panel of this year's Laurence Olivier Awards, to at the Grosvenor House Hotel, Mrs Hart was one of four theatre-lovers chosen to judge all new drama productions (excluding musicals) over the year, alongside five professionals. It's important to have amateurs on the panel," she says. "It stops the awards becoming a put-up job like the Oscars. And if a play wins an award, the public know that it's been approved by people

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And the winner is...Mrs Hart

year before I'd been to over 30 Society of London Theatre, She filled it in, added a short theatre review, and was selected from several hundred

applicants.
They were looking for ople with a very wide taste in theatre," she explains. "I always enjoyed acting in plays when I was young. As a bought cheap standing tickets for the West End."

some redeeming qualities."
It wasn't all fun, of course judging, but also costume, design, direction, lighting and

dominate the panel meetings?

civilised and friendly," says Mrs Hart. "We were listened to, and our votes were all equal."

Theatre critics, of course, are known for their power to make or break a play. Did managements treat her with due respect? "I wasn't treated differently at all, although one receptionist did optimistically describe my pink spectacles as 'rose-tinted'."

The experience has left Mrs Hart optimistic about the state of British theatre. "It is bursting with talent on all fronts from playwriting to direction - and there are plenty of innovative developments in productions. I personally think more new writing should be encouraged. But overall, theatre is definitely alive and kicking."

Highlights of the Olivier Awards exremony will be shown on BBC2 on Monday at 7.40pm

Rising son dazzles

Then Twyla Tharp made Push Comes to Shove for Mikhail Baryshnikov in 1976, its impact was enormous. The American Ballet Theatre audience was ecstatic; it knew it had just witnessed the birth of one of the most popular American ballets ever created. But even more important was the re-

Royal Ballet

Covent Garden

Baryshnikov, the supreme Russian classicist, had been reinvented as a Yankee hoofer.

Two decades later, that element of surprise is long gone. But a new male dancer has emerged with something of Baryshnikov's virtuosity and charisma. His name is Tetsuya Kumakawa, and he is why Tharp has given her ballet to Covent Garden.

Unlike Baryshnikov, the Japanese-born Kumakawa is not a lofty ballet prince in need of an image makeover. But, like his Russian predecessor, Kumakawa can leap and pirouette like no one else on earth. So Push Comes to Shove could have been made

for him, too. The ballet opens with a Prelude in which a bowlerhatted Kumakawa struts and swaggers around the stage to the regtime music of Joseph Lamb. The jazzy choreography is sexy and syncopated, like the rhythms of the music.

Then, without warning, we are thrown back 200 years to Haydn's Symphony No 32 ("The Bear") and our loveable rogue launches himself into a dizzying demonstration of classical pyrotechnics, delivered with an impish nonchacomes to a euphoric end.

lighted; and the sobriety of classicism is deflated by Tharp's checky commentary. It's all good fun. But more

Royal Ballet Thurp's choreography flatters the dancers and finds new facets of their performing personalities to delight us. Her ballet reveals that Wildor has a sense of humour, that Bussell is even more grown-up than we thought, and that although Kumakawa doesn't yet have the dramatic depth of Baryshnikov, he is the most amazing dancer on the Covent

- Car. 1822 - 1

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with no axe to grind."
For someone so enthusiastic about the theatre - "just the plays, a complete mixed bag" - this was a dream mission. It began with an application form left on a foyer shelf by the which organises the awards.

student in London I regularly

In one week alone she had to review seven plays. "But I never got sick of it. Even the plays I didn't like always had

"We had to make hefty notes on everything and I couldn't let my concentration slip. It wasn't just the actors we were script — 12 categories in all. But I still enjoyed it. It felt like an enormous privilege."

Did the professional judges

"Not at all. It was all very

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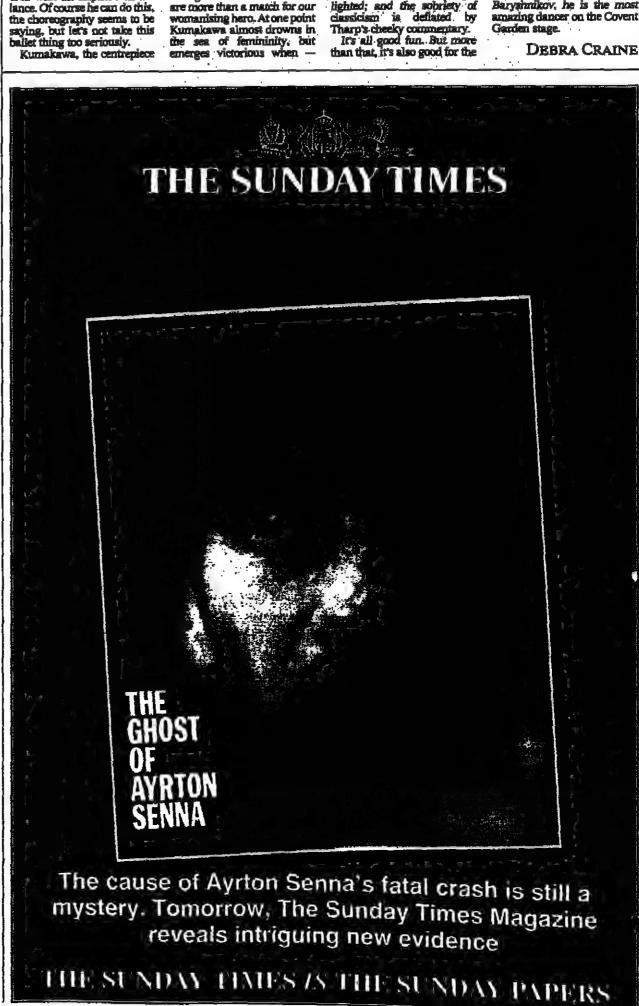
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MOINIGO

What will they think of next? Dame Kiri Te Kanawa goes trilling in the Outback



THEATRE 1

A walk on the wild side? Not exactly, but Heathcliff seems to keep the fans happy





THEATRE 2

The surreal circus acts of Wolk's World make for a crazy evening in Manchester



ON MON

How to make English Patie and the Germ happy: Geoff Brown at the Berlin Film Fe

orry, but this article is to be read only by very rich and completely mad opera-lovers with a yearning to travel to the other side of the world, so that they can sit in stilling desert heat listening to a soprano belting out her favourite bits of Puccini. They will also, en passant, be encouraged to consume emu paté, kangaroo tail soup, carnel salami and other delicacies of Antipodean cuisine. Oh yes, and they must be free to travel to the Australian Outback in late September - and

have a gold-plated credit card handy, because this bizarre expe-

dition is going to cost there plenty. Camel salarm doesn't grow on trees, you know.
Still with me? I thought so. You don't have to be crazy to read The Times arts pages, but it helps, I am referring, of course, to Dame Kiri Te Kanawa's latest inspired career move. The Prince of Wales's favourite operatic diva is planning to give an outdoor concert in Yalkarinha Gorge, Er, where: Well, you turn north out of

Chablis and camel with your aria? Adelaide, follow the track ... and stop after about 350 miles. Just like going to Glyndehourne, really. except you should allow a bit more time after crossing the Thames.

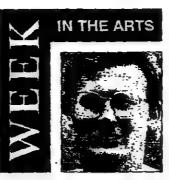
Anyway, Dame Kiri is thrilled by her new, rustic concert venue. "I shall be singing in the heart of Australia A Kiwi in dreamtime. she purrs.

indeed she will. And roughing it with the best of them, it seems. "Dame Kiri is going to camp for the weekend," exclaims an excited impresario. The spectacle of this grandest of grand-opera dames boiling the old billy for a good brew-up -- perhaps arrayed in one of her favourite Versace creations should be worth the price of admission alone. And 15,000 fans are expected to trek into the bush and pay up to £350 a ticket to see

Nevertheless, the Australians

say that the Yalkarınha Gorge concert is "just a rehearsal" for a much bigger event planned in the Outback to coincide with the Sydney Olympics in 2000. Oh no; is this a cue for our old friends, the Three Tenors, to come thundering over the dosty horizon from the Bulabunga sheep-shearing sta-tion, perhaps riding in chariots drawn by specially reinforced wallabies? I can hardly wait.

Once again, however, one fears that Britain has been left behind in the race to take arias into the Great Outdoors. Do we not have a homeless opera company on our hands for the next two years? Instead of dashing between the Barbican, the Albert Hall and my auntie's spare bedroom, perhaps our own Royal Opera should be planning to fill its temporary exile from Covent Garden with some speciacular expedition, Kanawa-



RICHARD MORRISON

style, into the natural world. How about a production in situ of Strauss's discarded early sketch, Salome of the Antarctic? Or perhaps that little-known Wagnerian epic, Lohengrin of Arabia?

I am sure that one of our wacky young directors would rise to the challenge.

lain Sproat's brilliant bid to win the election for the Tories? In a move that will send shockwaves through Labour's ranks, the National Heritage Minister has suggested that the British Library should receive not only a copy of every book published in Britain, but also every recording, film, video and CD-Rom. He is clearly worried that posterity will be unable to form a rounded view of the Golden Age of British Culture presided over by I. Sproat and V. Bottomley if, by some horrible mischance, the tapes of Blind Date have been swallowed in the mists of time.

Great idea, Sproaty! The country has just spent 20 years, and

more than £500 million, building the new British Library. It has been one of the biggest fiascos in British public life since ... well, since the last one. But at last it is finished. Now the minister decides he wants to squeeze about ten million CDs and a few hundred thousand films onto its shelves. . Is this the squirrel mentality gone mad? We should actually go the other way: there is far too much stuff going into our five national copyright libraries. The

British Library receives 500,000 new publications a year. And we do already have national archives covering records, film and TV. Of course the idea of a "storehouse of all knowledge" is a fine, ancient concept. The trouble is that mankind's accumulated knowledge now vastly exceeds the capacity of any conventional storehouse. Electronic storage is the

answer, but the task of trai ring existing printed matt daunting, and there are unresolved legal problems. I believe that 90 per cent of

the British Library receives be chucked straight in the bir then, my view of copyright li ies was warped at a tender as an undergraduate I wasted I in the tearoom of the University Library in Cambridge, discu the delicious rumour that the vast tower (to which access highly restricted) housed volumes of all the girlie maga ever published, plus unimably detailed erotic novels st ing back to the dawn of time To this day I have no whether this is true. But I pass through Cambridge wi lifting my eyes to that ma Giles Gilbert Scott tower very symbol of Cambridge's lastic pre-eminence — and gling at the thought that, inside, some stern libraria

standing guard over the w

A hit with the missus

ear a blue rinse, my editor suggested, fearing I might otherwise fire older be mistaken for one of the critics who had trashed this clumsy, sentimental collaboration between Emily Bronte and Cliff Richard at its premiere in Birmingham, and been lynched by a mob of

matronly Cliffhangers. Well, I stuck to my normal grey-brown, and ended up none the worse. The ladies were too busy cheering, and rushing en masse to the footlights to fire off the cameras we had been forbidden to use, to notice us reviewers corking up our bottles of vitriol and sneaking back to our lairs.

Whatever I add to the opinions expressed last October. nice or nasty, will make no difference. Cliff's Heathcliff is critic-proof, and clearly appeals to more than the azurefinted. On Thursday Hammersmith's vast Apollo was packed to its garish gills with the mix of ages, sexes, faces British shopping mall, and is likely to remain so until the musical closes in April You could hardly buy a Heathcliff sweatshirt or button-nosed Heathcliff teddy-bear, such was the throng at the sales counter at half-time.

And Cliff himself? My colleagues had a good time in Brum suggesting that Perry Como had been cast as the Antichrist, Max Bygraves as Titus Andronicus, Peter Pan as Captain Hook, Julie Andrews as Lady Macbeth and, bizarrely, John Major as a colonel in the French Foreign Legion. If they had described him as George Carey's definitive Caliban, or Bo Peep's Cruella De Vil. they could not have been more withering or implied he was less

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Actually, he is far from the weakest component in what, let's admit, is a creaky mechanism. How could as fine a director as Frank Duniop have done so little to create the Bronte energy and feel? True, the Apolio stage is large enough to make Texas look tiny and transform a 19 person company into a playgroup of Lilliputians; but Yorkshire cannot be evoked by a furry walkway and the sort of ersatz rockery you find doubling as a

Apollo, W6

fairy group in children's play-grounds. The story lacks momentum, tension, force. danger, sex, and much else. Overmiked voices come out of loudspeakers the wrong side of the stage. It would be an exaggeration to say that John Farrar's music is pop pap so pup the pip; but I wanted to show I could match Tim Rice's lyrics for linguistic power. "Was he the devil incarnate,

or a misunderstood man?" Rice asks, and Cliff gives the expected answer. He is more victim of Yorkshire's demurely waltzing nobs than villain, and more thwarted lover than obsessed, stalker. But he scowls, snarts, roars and wails with more commitment than he reportedly produced in Birmingham, and might be still more effective if he were not sidetracked by spurious journeys to scenic Africa. China and India. He is, as his name forewarns, only half a Heathcliff - but isn't that better than being none at all?

BENEDICT



Cliff Richard - bere with Helen Hobson (Cathy) - is not the worst part of Heathcliff

Alive, but not as we know THE world of Emil Wolk is a revels in being dodg impostors. They wor Wolk's World strange place in which to Manchester spend an evening. According to the programme notes, his

latest play is set in the "deep recesses of the company's mind". For most of us it is set in David Ultz's magnificent circus tent erected inside the Royal Exchange's temporary home at Upper Campfield Market. (The IRA blew up the old Exchange last year.)

Here Ben Keaton's wispyhaired ringmaster introduces us to a motley cast of circus acts. Toby Sedgwick's Kaspar, the insane tumbler, hobbles about on crutches pretending he's Napoleon. Madame Kazeer, the voluptuous middle-aged clairvoyant, is mutton dressed as ostrich feathers. Joe Montana's Superman owes more to camp than beefcake crusaders.

And the young, would-be gymnast Wolk? Barely have we tumbled through the opening routine (a small trampoline jump on to a large fat mattress) than the adolescent

Wolk, played by the indestruc-tible-looking Miltof Yerol-emou, breaks his neck. Suddenly, Wolk's world lurches into a fantasy realm where anything goes, most of it kitsch circus acts and saucy seaside cabaret.

Far from cramping his style, death proves a great liberator for young Wolk, who spends the rest of the show pursuing a vision of Joan of Arc. Jacque line Varsey plays the saint's earthly counterpart on ballet pointes, or singing lines such as "Life is full of wonder till you're six feet under" with operatic sincerity. They are comically and pointedly illmatched

That Wolk, the director (he doesn't act in this show), uses this whimsical relationship as his central plank, says much about the rest of his production. Instead of a plot, his cast

melodramatic sweat se a hopeless love scena sidetrack us with carte chases, water fight front-row flirting.

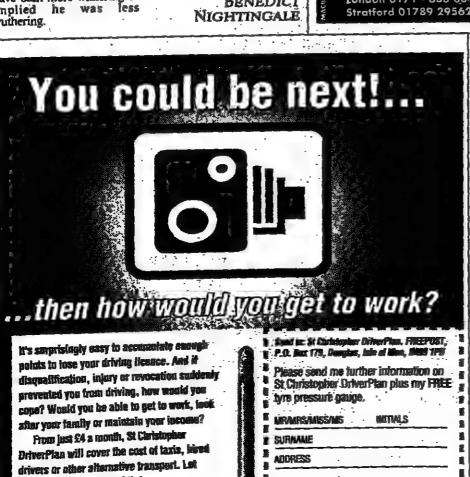
Interest in these r suffers over the tw quarter hours. The however, bizarre contions. Geraldine M deliciously desperat dame Kazeer is fant over the top. And the droll Keaton excels, he gives a wonderful pletely false impress he is in charge. Wolk's World is to

excuse to make and rules, a place where thrown together in the making inspired com The problem with this that you invariably with a lot of blown fi are lucky that Wolk i

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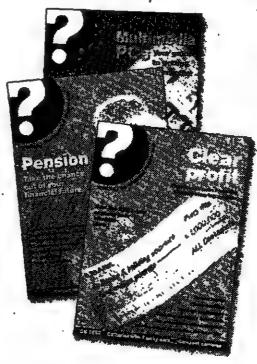
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Why the Mail should make us all uneasy

Michael Beloff says the finality of verdicts is threatened by the press

serious a libel as can be envisaged. A banner headline in a national newspaper is as extensive an act of publication as can be imagined. Such a coincidence only usually occurs after a jury in a criminal trial have pronounced a verdict of guilty. Yet the Daily Mail has levelled

the charge of murder against five named white youths, who, the paper asserts, were guilty of delib-erately stabbing to death the black teenager Stephen Lawrence in a racist attack in April 1993. This is despite the fact that the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) had earlier announced that there was insufficient evidence" to proceed against any of them, and three of the five had been formally acquitted at a private prosecution (one of only four this century) subsequently brought; two had been discharged at the committal hearing

A defamatory statement can be defended by a plea of justification (or truth). According to common law in England (although not in New Zealand), a criminal conviction was inadmissible in civil proceedings as evidence of the fact that the person convicted committed the offence in question, the socalled rule in Hollington v. Hewthorn. The celebrated robber Alfie Hinds exploited this loophole in a famous case in 1963: but it was filled by Parliament in the Civil Evidence Act 1968. Section 13 creates a conclusive presumption in

libel proceedings that a person convicted, once his offence has been proved. shall conclusively be taken to have committed the offence in question.

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Such a defence, however, would not be available to the Daily Mail in these cases, where its very complaint is that there was no conviction.

Nor could justification be based on the verdict returned earlier this week at the resumed coroner's inquest into the death at Southwark Coroner's

Court of "unlawful killing". Not aged by the inquest verdict, are said only does unlawful killing cover all cases of homicide — and not just murder - but the verdict of the coroner's jury cannot be relied upon in a civil court to establish that it was correctly returned.

Why then has the Daily Mail taken the risk? It has in effect invited the five named youths to test the matter in a court of law. Its headline challenges "if we are wrong, let them sue us". Since legal aid is not available for libel suits. there may be little chance of the gauntiet being taken up -- although the youths are consulting their solicitors. But if it was, it would, of course, be open to the Daily Mail to adduce evidence to prove that what it said was true. Parliament did not accept in 1968 the recommendation of the Law Reform Committee that in defamation proceedings, evidence of an acquittal should be conclusive evidence of innocence

The CPS under its code had to be satisfied that there was enough evidence to provide "a realistic prospect of conviction" against each defendant on each charge; and hence to consider both the admissibility and the reliability of the available evidence. It had to remember that in criminal proceedings the standard of proof required is "beyond reasonable doubt".

The Daily Mail is not restricted to the evidence considered by the CPS; and would bear in mind that it would need to justify on the civil standard of "balance of probabilities" only, although the courts have

n allegation of murder is as constantly reiterated that the more serious the matter that has to be proved even in civil litigation, the more convincing must the evidence be to support it. In reality there may be very little difference between what would be required to prove murder in the civil as distinct from the criminal courts.

There is a more significant dimension to the whole affair. The deliberate provocation of libel proceedings by persons who otherwise have fear that wrongdoing may not be exposed at all in a court of law is not novel. There are two celebrated examples in modern times. The first was the challenge laid down by the Marquess of Queensberry to Oscar Wilde when he publicly accused the writer of "posing as a sodomite". The fateful acceptance of that challenge set Wilde on the road to Reading Jail. In 1925, one Peter Wright wrote

disparagingly of the then dead Liberal statesman W.E. Gladstone, alleging that his public moral posture was at odds with his private interest in prostitutes. Gladstone's son wrote a series of letters to the secretary of the Bath Club, in which he accused Wright of being a "liar and a coward". His motive was transparent. Since no libel proceedings can be brought on behalf of a dead person, the defamer had to be made a plaintiff, not a defendant. The ruse succeed-ed. Wright sued for the libel in the letters: but the jury held that the defence of Lord Gladstone was made out: Wright was a liar and a coward. The late Prime Minister's reputation was posthum-

ously burnished. Prejudgment There are other instances of the civil law, apart from libel, being been frowned used in substitution of, or correction for, the criminal law. O.J. Simpson had awarded against him compensatory and punitive damages at a suit of the families of the victims, whom the jury in the criminal trial had phenomenon: earlier determined that he had not murdered. *r*ejudgment Indeed, Stephen Law-

rence's family, encour-

to be starting a civil action for compensation against the five youths. It is natural to feel a sense of unease that guilty persons may walk free, or indeed never have to stand in the dock. But such reaction should be accompanied by a sense of unease when matters that should properly be before the criminal courts form the actual or potential subject matter of civil proceedings, or where the verdicts of the criminal courts are, for whatever reason,

not held to be final.

Prejudgment has always been frowned upon in English law, as the strict rules on contempt of court illustrate. If the Daily Mail had published the present article at a time when any hearing of the Lawrence family's civil claim had been arranged, the newspaper would have been vulnerable to proceedings under the Contempt of Court Act 1981 on the basis that the publication created a substantial risk of serious prejudice to the course of justice in that forthcoming civil trial.

The growing phenomenon of which the Daily Mail article is an example may be classified as rejudgment: the same paper pur-sued the same policy in hinting strongly that Colin Stagg was the murderer of Rachel Nickell. Is it any more desirable? Finality is not the only value in any mature legal system, but it is a significant one.

Michael J. Beloff, QC, is President of Trinity College, Oxford

Pop culture is not Christianity, says Roger Scruton, whatever the Church of England may say

ord Runcie's objection to the new kind of Anglican service, in which popular culture is used to entice young people to church, has been greeted by the bishops with dismay. And it is easy the service when the property is not the property is not the property in the property in the property is not the property in the property in the property is not the property in the property in the property in the property is not the property in the property i to see why. For there is no unhappier situation for a priest than to minister to a dying congregation — to see the faith that he preaches rapidly slipping towards oblivion, soon to have no more living followers than the gods of Greece and Rome. Faith without hope is empty, just as hope without faith is blind. And hope needs more than other-worldly promises: it must find its living symbol in the

here and now, in other words, in the minds and faces of the young. But we should remind ourselves of certain truths. The Christian religion has been enshrined in sacred liturgies and texts, which resist emendation since they define our experience of God, and have ecquired an aura of the holy and the untouchable. This has been true of the King James Bible and the Book of Common Prayer, the two great pillars of the old Anglican Church. It has been true also of the Hebrew Bible and the Sacred Service: of the Mass in its Tridentine form; of the Koran and the sacred texts of the Hindus and the Buddhists. To amend and update a religious text or ritual is to jeopardise its holiness. It is to awaken the thought that perhaps Golden idols won't fill Anglican pews

manufactured in whatever form we choose. The solemn and inherited language of the sacred text is there to remind us of eternity, and of the absent generations who stand invisibly among us as we worship.

Moreover, the Anglican Church owes its identity to our national history and culture. Its revelation of God's purpose is adapted to the spiritual needs of English-speaking people. If the Anglican Church is severed from its history, it loses its peculiar moral standing. That is why so many people objected to the New English Bible and the Alternative Service Book: not because they were doctrinally unsound, but because they detached the Church from the culture which had grown around it, and which made it part of the English way of life.

There is no doubt that the Book of Common Prayer is not only more solemn, but also more severe than . its replacements. It repeatedly re-

ness, and of the fragility of human nature. It is inherently painful for a young person to sit through the old service of Holy Communion, even if the outcome is a kind of catharsis, as the experience of God's mercy is renewed. Without external pressures the young will avoid a church where the Book of Common Prayer is the daily diet, and where the language, music and ritual are remote from anything they encounter in the world outside.

n such circumstances, what are the clergy to do? Many young people grow up in a spiritual void, without faith or hope. Their hold on moral truth is tenuous. Their culture, if that is the word for it, is a culture of soundbites and quick fixes in which violent and sexual images play a leading part. But human beings are disposed by nature to pay homage to the holy and the numinous, and to seek for ceremonial gatherings in which

of God. Young people therefore live in a state of deep frustration, the origin of which is unknown to them, since nobody has provided them with the concepts, the lan-guage or the rituals which would convey the missing idea. The temptation is to construct a new form of worship from the debris of popular culture, to give the young religion by making a religion of what they already have.

In the National Gallery hangs the painting which captures this predicament: Poussin's sublime depiction of the Adoration of the Golden Calf. The Israelites are dancing around the idol in poses of abandon. The priest has persuaded them that the instincts enshrined in their popular culture are sufficient to redeem them, that this lustful dancing in a happy crowd is the essence of religion, which makes no higher demand. And their faces shine with relief: the relief of those who have escaped from judgment.

The austere God of Moses has been brushed aside, and a playground affection has grown in place of His harsh commandments. In the distance, diminished to an ineffectual doll, is the figure of Moses, de-scending from the Sinai. He dashes down the Tables of the Law. appalled that the God who prescribed them - the eternal judge of human conduct — has become incomprehensible to His people.

Idolatry places what is merely

human upon an altar. It therefore automatically diminishes the object of worship and reinforces the deepdown sentiment that there is nothing higher than the human, and nothing that stands in judgment over us. Idolatry therefore leads to delinquency - and that, in a nutshell, is the condition in which we find ourselves. If the Churches are to restore faith and hope to the young, they must find the means not only of attracting young people to church, but of making them uncomfortable when they get there. Lord Runcie is surely right to warn us against mistaking togetherness for worship. But if the old rituals are no longer intelligible to the young, with what voice can the clergy speak to them? In such circumstances, it seems to me, the Church has one overriding duty, which is to cease pandering to a popular culture rotten with idolatry, and to stand once again in judgment over it.

Is this Voltaire's last halloo?

arly last Saturday I was driving down a lane near Macclesfield in Cheshire. The sun was bright but low and mist filled hollows in the countryside. As I turned a corner I faced an astonishing sight. Down the slope towards me advanced an English fox-hunt at full trot and in full regalia. The Cheshire Forest Hunt was setting out from Birtles, some 50 strong and preceded by its hounds. This is wealthy country. Riders and horses were magnificent, the spectacle exhilarating. Trollope was right. Every land-

scape needs a hunt. Really? By the end of the day, Cheshire had seen the worst fighting in recent hunt history. Police were camped on every verge. Huntsmen had been assaulted, roads blocked, cars and trailers smashed and 60 people arrested. The last big weekend of the season. saw unprecedented violence from more than 100 hunt saboteurs. The county was besieged by virulent balaclavas, apparently set on causing such mayhem as to render hunting no longer worth the bassle. For the rest of the day I encountered bedraggled, mud-spattered riders dispersed across the county. The splendour of the morning was gone. The Charge of the Light Brigade had become a retreat into the gloaming. The hunter had been

I have not the slightest interest in this sport. I do have a strong and principled aversion to endangering a living creature, namely myself. Galloping rough across country is proof positive that some people yearn to cheat medical science by tilting the scales of life back towards the Grim Reaper, From what I saw in Cheshire last weekend, insurance salesmen should give the county a wide

Nor do I derive any pleasure from the act of killing. I do not feel Dickens's "passion for hunting something, deeply implanted in the human breast". Perhaps city living has led me too far down the evolutionary tree from huntinggathering. The country is a primi-tive business and its baser instincts are made no more acceptable by being vaguely attributed to Mother Nature. I regard people who delight in killing as, in this respect,

Their metaphysics are even weirder. Melvyn Bragg, one of the luvvies on horseback", recently defended hunting on the Argument from Painlessness. Benefiting from some telepathic implant, Mr Bragg assures us that foxes feel no agony. Indeed they find the hunt exciting. I suppose the amaigamated trade

I do not like hunting, but I will defend the right of countrymen to pursue their traditional sport



However cruel their hunting instinct may seem, foxhounds are part of traditional British rural life

union of foxes and wolves might say the same of chickens and lambs. Such hypotheses are untestable.

The Argument from Pest Control is even odder. Foxes in the country are like dogs in town, pests that people do not really want suppressed. The fox could soon be rendered extinct with the aid of terriers, traps and

guns. Ask Trollope's Duke of Omnium. But then there would be none to hunt. The argument was shot to pieces by the Master of the Beaufort last week. "Stop us hunting and I

guarantee there wouldn't be one fox left in 12 months," he said. As for the Argument from Employment -Britain's 150 hunts claim to support 65.000 jobs - I suppose bearbaiting and witch-burning created jobs. That hardly engages the moral issue. Hunting has always been its own

worst defence counsel. Fox-hunting is now bound to feature prominently in the next Parliament, with a passion out of all proportion to its importance. Wounds will open within and between parties. Lords will strive with Commons, town with country. Tony Blair has promised "a free vote in govern-

ment time" on a Private Member's Bill banning hunting. Unless some compromise can be struck in advance, this is likely to pass. With saboteurs ready to turn every hunt into a rerun of the

battle of Newbury

bypass, many of

this month's hunts may conceivably have been the last. Once again we must ring the bell and summon Voltaire and his priest from retirement. To detest another man's opinions is one thing. To suppress them is quite another. This distinction is the essence of liberalism. We may

rector, Professor Anthony Giddens,

knew bugger-all about the Spice

Homecoming

Davies, from whom she separated

believe that a person or group are profoundly wrong in what they do, but courtesy, tolerance and "do-as-you-would be done by" dictate that we honour their freedom. Legal restraint is valid only where some overriding benefit to society requires it. That benefit must be more than the ending of what a majority believes to be wrong. It must also compensate for the damage done to the principle of tolerance itself. The burden of proof must be on the authoritarian.

I know of no overriding benefit from banning fox-hunting. I am sure that the sport is cruel to the fox, and society has an interest in discouraging cruelty. We ban gra-tuitous cruelty to animals, allowing experiments, on them only where nutrition, hygiene or medical science justifies harming them. Small boys who pull wings off butterflies are told to stop. Those who see cats and dogs as pests are discouraged from shooting them. When the salmon is caught by jabbing a hook in its lip, we are advised to kill it before its lungs collapse. Animals have no rights. Such

"rights" are philosophical gibber-ish. Cruelty to animals upsets us partly from some vague anthropo-morphism — "I would not like to be treated that way" — partly because we fear the cruelty might somehow be extended from animals to human beings. Fox-hunting is not required for food or safety. Is there not something abhorrent in this ritual of pink coats, tally-hos, goneaways, kills and bloodings? To many townspeople, hunting un-leashes the dark side of human nature. It is upmarket bear-baiting, an animalian Ku-Klux-Klan that must not the humanity of its

I might agree with all of this, yet still plead Voltaire from the rooftops. To claim that what the Cheshire, the Quorn or the Beaufort do to the lungs of foxes remotely affects my existence is absurd. To suggest that humsmen are so simk in bestiality as to need protecting from becoming serial killers is no less ridiculous. To pretend that the hunting I saw last weekend threatens British civilisation, and must therefore be deproportion to the cruelty involved. There are worse cruelties aplenty. Hunting is merely an easy target for those who see in it all that they dislike about the landed (or nowadays the moneyed) classes

unting is what some country people do. Its moral content is unaffected by whether they are rich or poor, totts or yobs, beelrenderers or used-car salesmen. Landowners consent to this activity or they would not tolerate it. If the Government owns countryside, then it should do so in accordance with the wishes of tenants or residents in the neighbourhood, not in towns. This is subsidiarity. Foxhunting is a traditional sport of rural Britain. I am sure urban Britain does things to animals that might deeply offend country folk. (In my part of town we poison rats horribly, neuter cockroaches, boil lobsters and shoot and rob the nests of Canada geese.) I expect country people to keep their noses out of my leisure pursuits. The least I can do is keep mine out of theirs.

Which means that for Labour to offer a "free vote in government time" to a fox-hunting ban defies that party's albeit patchy tradition of moral libertarianism. It is the new centralism with yet another twist. So does this mean that I would un-ban the equally traditional, but working-class, blood sport of cocklighting? If that is what people who live in the cockfighting parts of the country really want, yes.

MICRO, VIICRI

Bottoms up

AS HERITAGE Minister, Virginia Bottomley has shown an impressive enthusiasm for her brief and, despite the prospect of a Labour government, she doesn't appear to be letting up. After bumping into some painters recently, she requested membership of the Chelsea Arts Club. They are considering



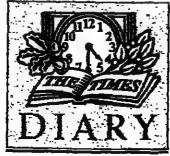
Bottomley: clubbable

will be made an honorary member, joining the likes of John Cleese and Damien Hirst.

The Arts Club, an institution populated by florid-faced artisans who would be at home in a Breughel painting, has a long waiting list and Virginia's membership is likely to be contentious.

However, when presenting the £10,000 Hunting Art Prize to Martin Fuller, a fine draughtsman, earlier this month she found she was surrounded by club members. So she applied for membership there and then - acknowledging with self-effacing concern that she might not be directly concerned with the arts for much longer.

Yesterday the club, which insists on artistic pedigree for its members, refused to discuss the matter. Mrs Bottomley herself was also unavailable. When she shows up for her first night at the bar, however, she should bone up for some pretty sharp words from members on the hot topic of abolishing business rates on art-

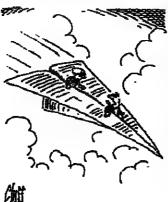


 Some drink coffee and smake, others take ginseng. Brian Mawhinney, the Tory party chairman, keeps his energy up with cheese and gherkin sandwiches. To devour gherkins is a bad breath nightmare. Perhaps this explains the healthy distance kept between Mawhinney and reporters at Central Office press conferences.

Dalai Dobbs

ADDING a spiritual dimension to the Tory election campaign will be Michael Dobbs, the lifelong party stalwart and political novelist. Perhaps in preparation for this role Dobbs, creator of television's arch-Machiavellian Prime Minister Francis Urquhart, is in India to visit the Dalai Lama. He is accompanied by his wife of 16 years 'O-Sei had to dodge a hail of missiles from his audience. The bombard-Nyima, a converted Buddhist who ment of paper darts and bombs was set off by his confession that he is to be ordained a lama in March. Central Office was not expanding on the subject yesterday: "He's ful-filling a spiritual role in the campaign," a spokesman said.

● The heady whiff of rebellion is back at the London School of Economics where government ministers are habitually greeted with rotten eggs. On his first address to the Students' Union, the new Di-



"Are vou on one of

these £10 tickets too?

A TOUCHING gesture in St Valentine's week comes from Beryl Bainbridge, the author who many believe should have won the Booker Prize. She is temporarily reunited with her husband, Austin

> nearly 40 years ago.
>
> Davies, in artist who lives in Australia, is lodging for a few weeks at Beryl's home in Camden, north London, because he has an exhibition just south of Tower Bainbridge, who works at her typewriter in white gloves to keep the nicotine off her fingers, has many admirers. Not least among them is Lord Wyatt of Weeford, who met her at a party a few years

ago and began a vigorous However, she still enjoys the company of her former husband, not only welcoming him back home



Madame Calment: oldest swinger, still swigging at 122

but also organising the drinks party at his preview.

Gong show

ADVISERS to President Chirac are telling him that it is high time that France honoured Madame Jeanne Calment, the oldest woman in the world, who will be 122 next Friday. Born in 1875, she has seen out 16 French Presidents and now lives in a retirement home in Arles where she has dim recollections of a chap

called Vincent with a dicky ear who bought canvases from her father. Under Chirac, more people than ever before have been decorated with the Légion d'honneur and he rushed to award a posthumous Grand Croix, the highest class in the order, to Pamela Harriman. but still Madame Calment's bosom remains unadorned. He must action quickly, or else he will find himself

having to make another posthu-

mous award.



TWO WRONGS

The wrong way for a newspaper to counter injustice

The vigilante is both an understandable and an unattractive creature. The English law may sometimes produce outcomes that barely resemble justice. That, by itself, does not excuse individuals or groups from putting themselves above the law and infringing the rights of others.

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> The press has traditional responsibilities to counter injustice. But before embarking on a campaign such as the Daily Mail launched yesterday, newspapers have responsibilities to establish the facts first. Their campaigns should be founded on investigation, not on threat or bluster. The road to anarchy is paved by self-styled law enforcers; so too, the cause of justice is at risk from self-appointed special prosecutors.

The Daily Mail yesterday named and labelled five white youths as the raciallymotivated murderers of Stephen Lawrence. In doing so it has thrown down a gauntlet and won praise from many who rightly hate racism wherever it occurs. The newspaper itself conceded that the action was "unprecedented" and "no light matter". It acknowledged that the affair had twice come before a court of law and failed on each occasion. Despite that, it felt that the transparent failure of British justice demanded the dramatic move of inviting those it accused to sue the paper for libel if they dared.

There have been many unsatisfactory aspects of this saga. One case collapsed when the Crown Prosecution Service decided that it had insufficient evidence. The subsequent private prosecution for murder also fell when critical evidence was ruled inadmissible. The closest that matters have come to a genuine contest was the inquest this week, when a jury swiftly determined that Mr Lawrence had been unlawfully killed. Four years after the attack, no one has had to face imprisonment and in all probability no one ever will. Every one must feel the deepest of sympathies with the Lawrence family: those who know them must feel it most deeply of all.

That does not, however, justify the Daily Mail in intervening in this way. It was hard-

ly the only course open to the paper. It could have laid out the circumstantial evidence that implicates the five. Readers could then have drawn their own conclusion. Instead it directly denounced them as murderers.

Their targets may, indeed, retaliate through the libel courts. But this is not as easy as it may seem. Legal aid is not available for such litigation. The newspaper had good reason to predict that its dare would not be answered: the men do not have the money to mount a challenge. The press plays a dangerous game when it abuses the right of free speech and sets out to destroy an individual's reputation without constructing a factual and convincing case.

None of this will help the Lawrence relatives. Indeed it could complicate matters further. It raises the prospect of two trials, both in effect for murder but neither under that name. The parents could initiate a civil action against the five by charging them with assault and battery. A judge sitting alone would decide whether the preponderance of evidence matched that claim and award financial damages accordingly.

Meanwhile, a parallel case might occur in which the five sued the Daily Mail for destroying their reputations. In this instance a jury would determine whether the "murderers" headline was justified. In doing so they would be advised that the term "murderer" requires both that the event occurred and that murderous intent existed. It is not impossible that, with such different rules of engagement, contradictory conclusions might emerge. This would hardly assist the cause of justice.

An appalling crime has already seen two trials and an inquest. The risk now is of tragedy turned into legal farce. The O.J. Simpson experience is not one we should wish to see repeated in our courts. The media bore much of the responsibility for that Californian circus. Even in this, one of the most moving and worthy of cases, all newspapers should act with restraint. Their place lies in the press gallery, not as advocates for the prosecution.

WITHOUT A CREW

A technological salute to the film-makers of tomorrow

There are two kinds of movie-making. The first involves a budget adjacent to the gross national product of a small country and; stars who will not get out of bed for less that: \$10 million. Then add armies of hairdressers, grips, best boys, gofers and gaffers; pay for laboratories of boffins to devise evermore special "special effects"; and BUT FAR hire marketing teams to sell the film to mass TICES ITUTII ATIKATA ID ZUTICIL the classic Hollywood way, and it brings massive rewards if the formula is right. Independence Day, last year's top box-office draw, is likely to become the first film in history to earn a billion dollars.

Then there is another, more romantic way. At the age of 23, Robert Rodriguez was desperate to make a movie, but had no formal training, contacts or money. He raised the latter by becoming a guinea-pig for medical experiments; he borrowed an Arriflex film camera from an acquaintance; and he set off for Mexico to make a film which he singlehandedly wrote, directed, dubbed and edited. His actors were friends, relatives and villagers. The total cost was \$7,000. But the resulting film. El Mariachi, brought supplicants from top Hollywood studios to Rodriguez's door and catapulted him to fame.

His subsequent book, Rebel Without a Crew, is now a bible for the thousands of young Britons who want to make movies. If you have ingenuity, determination and flair, Rodriguez tells them, you can solve the problems which, on a Hollywood film-set, would be "washed away with the money hose". As he wryly points out, for a young film-maker "there are never any budget problems because there's no budget".

This week The Times has launched a competition to celebrate young film-makers, their freshness, their energy and their ambition. Rodriguez's success was exceptional, but not unique Citizen Kane, arguably the greatest movie of them all, was made by Orson Welles at the age of 25. And there have been huge advances in camera technology since Welles's day. High-quality video and film equipment is no even to youngsters with limited finances. No longer is it necessary to employ a crew

for three months or more. The best independent films today are made on the hoof, with hand-held cameras, instant takes, instinctive angles, and the rough edges left in. The rawness is part of the appeal and a welcome antidote to Hollywood sheen. There is no shortage of outlets for talented young film-makers. And the revolution has only just begun. Soon independent film-makers may be liberated not only from the big studios but from mainstream distributors as well. If feature films can be transmitted through the Internet, film-makers can bypass the cinema chains and dispatch their epics instantly to their fans.

That momentous change lies in the future. For the moment our competition (on page 47) will equip one aspiring director with an Arriflex camera and, we hope, inspire many others to action. Britain's current crop of movie-makers confirmed their world-class stature this week with a bumper haul of Oscar nominations. The next generation are already crashing through the door - their ideas unruly, their techniques unrefined, their potential unlimited. We look forward to being shocked, dazzled and mesmerised.

MICRO, MICRO, ON THE WALL

Who is the richest of them all?

The possessions of new families are mations of Vanderbilt, Carnegie, Mellon commonly exaggerated in the public mind, while those of long established families are as commonly diminished": or so James Fenimore Cooper noticed 150 years ago. He would not have been surprised by the news that, at the tender age of 42, the software tycoon Bill Gates is worth £18 billion. Some have even said that the glitterati of the mouse, pentium chip and CD-Rom have become the richest men who ever lived, not merely the richest men in the world today. Are they right?

Today's billionaires run complex companies and hold the bulk of their wealth in shares. The best-known - or the least reticent - are American. The closest Britain can come to Mr Gates's total is the estimated 54 billion worth of the retired Swedish brothers who founded the packaging firm Terrapak and came to live here in the 1980s. Modern Americans have the benefit of the

world's largest economy. But US billionaires also operate under anti-trust laws which inhibit their companies' growth and restrict their ability to use company money to expand their private wealth. These worries did not slow down the 19th-century American buccaneers who developed the communication superhighways of their time, cornering markets to supply fuel for cars and steel for railways. Although a tendency to grandiose exaggeration makes estiand Rockefeller wealth an inexact science, even working from the sums which such men gave away to good causes, they may have been richer men than Mr Gates.

When J. P. Morgan bought Carnegie Steel from its founder Andrew Carnegie, Morgan handed over a cheque for \$480 million, worth £17.5 billion in today's money, with the words, "Congratulations Mr Carnegie, you are the richest man in the world." The big difference between Mr Carnegie and Mr Gates, whose assets are mostly not liquid but in Microsoft shares, came later. Over the next decade, the Scottish immigrant gave \$350 million away, endowing 3,000 libraries along the way. By the time of his death in 1937, John D. Rockefeller had given away \$500 million, worth £14.1 billion today. But Mr Rockefeller is supposed to have been worth \$855 million at the end of his life. That sum, £24.04 billion in today's money, would

have put Bill Gates in the shade. In earlier centuries there was probably not enough wealth for anyone to be compared with Mr Gates. How rich was Croesus? It is hard to say. There was certainly much less to buy with his money. The unregulated 19th century was the heyday of the billionaire. The 20th century has been good - but not perhaps quite such a congenial climate for men and women who want to be seriously

ETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London EI 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Call for EU code on arms exports

From the Bishop of Coventry and others

Sir, February 15 is the anniversary of the publication of the Scott report. At that time we wrote to The Times, calling on the Government to heed its lessons and "never again allow shortterm commercial gain to override international peace and security in decisions on weapons sales.

A year later we feel compelled to write again. Little has happened in the intervening period to give us any indication that irresponsible arms exports to unscrupulous regimes are a thing of the past. Indeed, the Government recently announced that the British defence industry captured a record quarter of the global arms market in 1996 (News in brief, February I).

Many of these sales are to countries in regions of instability and to regimes with poor human rights records. For example, it is deeply regrettable that the award of the Nobel Peace Prize to Bishop Belo (report, October 12, 1996; leading article, October 14) was followed by the grant of further licences to export British weapons to Indo-

The tragedy of Dunblane forced British politicians to confront the link between the availability of guns and the number of firearms deaths in our society. Yet the acceptance of this link sits uneasily alongside a willingness to export vasily more destructive weapons to some of the poorest countries in the world.

The off-cited argument against tougher arms export controls is. "If we don't sell, someone else will". In the aftermath of Scott the Government engaged in a process of consultation about the future of UK arms export controls. We are not yet convinced that sufficiently stringent criteria have been implemented.

Action at both national and international level is required. Germany, The Netherlands, Sweden and Ireland all support a restrictive European arms export policy and pressure is mounting for the introduction of a European code of conduct on the arms trade at the current EU inter-governmental conference. The code would help prevent weapons sales to regions of instability, countries which abuse human rights, military aggressors and dictatorial regimes.

. The code will simply not happen, however, without the support of Britani, José lie shackles of general electrogening have been cast aside one of the greatest challenges for the new government, of whichever party, will be to take a lead on this initiative. This important chance should not be

Yours faithfully, TSIMON COVENTRY, TDAVID LIVERPOOL TRICHARD OXON: c/o Safer World, 33-34 Alfred Place, WCI. February 13.

Forces manpower From Rear-Admiral Hugh Tracy

Sir, Mr Noel Falconer's simplistic "demonstration" of the number of top people needed in the Armed Forces (letter, February 10) cannot be allowed to go unchallenged.
First, "combat units" are not by any

means the only groups that require executive leadership. In these days of ever more complex weapons and machinery, what is often unkindly described as "the tail" is almost more important than the "sharp end" units which operate the equipment. With automation, the size of combat units has been much reduced, whilst the officer manpower required to deal with the complexities of planning, design, supply and administration has increased greatly.

It may be possible, when there is an emergency or some other need to expand our forces, to recruit untrained manpower, but its effectiveness will entirely depend on a supply of experienced officers, including senior ones.

Yours faithfully **HUGH TRACY** 2la Sion Hill, Bath

Concorde offer

From Mr Myer Lacome

Sir, It was impossible to get through to British Airways last night [letter, February 13]. So, on my way to the hathroom at 4am. I tried again — all the Concorde flights had gone.
This is ridiculous, I then thought.

Here I am, naked and cold with a credit card in my hand, hoping to win an uncomfortable seat in an aluminium tube on its way to a bitterly cold New York in February.

So, if Richard Branson is reading this, I am willing — in fact eager — to travel Virgin first-class return in June, and am prepared to pay Ell for the extra space and comfort.

We don't mind if it takes a little longer as it's our 44th wedding anniversary and we shall enjoy a second bottle of champagne.

Yours faithfully, MYER LACOME. 4 Campbell's Close (Off Royal Mile), Edinburgh. February 12.

Letters should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be Exced to 0171-782-5046.

Resolving West Lothian question

From Mr Alan Beith, MP for Berwick-upon-Tweed (Liberal Democrat)

Sir, Simon Jenkins (article, February 12) has rightly pointed out that the West Lothian question is no different from the South Armagh question.

When I was first elected to the House of Commons in 1973 the Stormont Parliament was still in operation and Ulster MPs sat at Westminster, where they could ask questions about health in England which, in their own constituencies, were matters for the Northern ireland gov-TUURALL

I never heard a single word of complaint from the Conservative Party about their Ulster Unionist colleagues having the right to ask such questions. Indeed, they made one of them a minister in the Department of Employment, where he had to answer questions relating to jobs in England hich he could not have asked about his own constituency.

Those who claim to be Unionists, as well as those of us who believe in a federal UK, have to recognise that constitutional arrangements are never models of neatness or symmetry.

Yours sincerely, ALAN BEITH, House of Commons. February 12.

From Mr David Gladstone

Sir. There is one more lie about Scottish devolution to be added to the list so elegantly nailed by Simon Jenkins. It is frequently put about by Tory party spokesmen that when English voters wake up to the privileges being accorded to a Scottish parliament they "will not stand for it" and will angrily reject the whole scheme.

As a voter with an impeccably English pedigree (albeit like many others with distant Scottish antecedents) may I assure Messrs Major, Forsyth & Co that far from feeling angry about what the Labour Party is proposing I believe it to be the least that should be offered to the Scottish people in recognition of their dogged devotion to a Union that they entered into with understandable reluctance. It is clear to most of us, if not to the

unfortunate Mr Stephen Dorrell

(leading article, "Dorrell drowning".

February 11), that in many important respects Scotland is as different from the rest of the United Kingdom as Northern Ireland and that it is high time to recognise that fact by giving it a forum in which those differences can find legitimate political - and if the

Scots so wish financial - expression.

Yours etc. DAVID GLADSTONE, Mountfort Terrace, NI. February 12.

From Mr A. J. Wilde

Sir. One approach to the apparently intractable West Lothian question may be to hold a referendum in England, before the referendum for a Scottish assembly, which would pose the question:

In the event of Scotland voting for its own parliament, do you wish Scottish MPs to have the right to vote on English affairs while English MPs are denied similar rights in Scotland?

Only when the inevitable "no" vote is recorded will the true absurdity of having separate parliaments within the UK finally sink in.

Yours sincerely. A. J. WILDE, 29 Florida Fields. Castle Cary, Somerset.

From Sir Ludovic Kennedy

February II.

Sir, In one respect Stephen Dorrell is right. When a Scottish parliament is in place it would be absurd for Scottish MPs to continue to attend the Westminster Parliament while English MPs would be denied election to the Scottish parliament.

But as the Scottish parliament would be legislating on almost everything except foreign affairs and defence, and as Souttish MPs at Westminster would always be outvoted, what need is there for having them there? What is wrong with joint working parties from the two parliaments, to discuss whatever issues need resolving between them?

Yours faithfully, LUDOVIC KENNEDY, Ashdown, Avebury, Wiitshire. February 11.

From the President of the

Sir, Science and engineering are usu-

ally in the headlines only on an oc-

casion of tragedy or failure. By con-

trast, there has been remarkably little

media celebration of the continuing

success of our scientists, culminating

in the recent award of the Nobel Prize

for Chemistry to Sir Harry Kroto, of

Sussex University (report, October 10,

1996). Such intellectual achievements

determine our future wealth, and with

it the resources to develop the other di-

mensions which fulfil our humanity.

we should not be surprised that the

number of young people choosing to study the sciences is in decline. Phys-

ics departments in our universities are

closing, engineering departments are

unable to attract enough able young

students. The scenario which Bragg

so accurately describes will have con-

sequences — for science, for our nat-

ional wealth and for the arts.

Yours faithfully

President.

February 11.

BRIAN MANLEY,

The Institute of Physics,

76 Portland Place, Wi.

In the face of one-sided reporting.

Institute of Physics

Common visions of the two cultures

From Dr J. H. Mulvey, Executive Secretary of the Save British Science Society

Sir, Melvyn Bragg's brilliant "And the winner is ... a British scientist" [Arts. February 10) couples an appreciation OUISIANO ING achievements of British scientists and engineers with the recognition that their efforts are every bit as much a part of building the nation's cultural heritage as are

those made by the arts community. Contrary to popular misconceptions, the originality, flair, insight and sheer hard graft, mixed with inspiration, required for success in science are not different in kind from those needed by authors, composers, artists and others. They are just applied

vithin a different discipline. The message from Melvyn Bragg is that "Science" and "Arts" are partners, both exciting new visions and perspectives in the mind's view of the world. Melvyn offers a welcome bridge.

Yours sincerely JOHN MULVEY. **Executive Secretary** Save British Science Societ SBS, Box 241, Oxford OXI 3QQ. February 10.

Beeton beaten?

From Mr Quentin Crewe

Sir, Your account of Mrs Beeton's passionate love for her husband Samuel (report and photographs, February 11) makes their relationship sound rather touching. I cannot help feeling that her nine-year marriage must have been very different.

Beeton was undoubtedly a man of perverted tastes. One of the magazines he published used to be kept by the British Museum in what was known as the "Private Case", ie, not to be shown without good reason on the grounds of its pornographic content. A glance at the letters pages of The English Gentlewoman's Magazine re-

vealed that the correspondence on the spurring of horses (with much des-cription of blood) ran for many months. So did the subject of "rightlacing". Longest of all was the question of "the chastisement of young girls". It was not hard to detect, from the oft-repeated phrases about the girls looking up at their termenter with wide eyes, that all the letters were written by the same hand.

It is not surprising that the innocent Mrs Beeton devoted so much of her time in writing a book of guidance for

Yours faithfully, QUENTIN CREWE, Q Bliss Mill. Chipping Norton, Oxfordshire.

From Mr John Anderson

Pews and popcorn From the Reverend D. M. Greenhalgh

Ann Hale, in which all seats were declared free in 1876 (letter, February 8; see also letters. February 5, 6), may have been assisted by the incorporated Church Building Society, foun-ded 1818. Such free access is a condition of help from this society. In most parish churches. I believe that pew rents may still legally be

Sir. The church referred to by Mrs

charged, though the custom is disused in these days. In Clergymen of the Church of England (1866) Trollope has an interesting chapter on town incumbents whose livelihood mainly depended on

pew rents. Their personality and sermons had to be popular.

Yours faithfully, DAVID GREENHALGH, 3 Cricket Lawns. Oakham, Rutland, Leicestershire. February 🤉

Sir, The letting of pews in churches

and chapels was once common. I have a seating plan for a new Congregational chapel at Northwich. Cheshire, dated July 1882. The proposed quarterly rents for the pews ranged from 4s (20p) for the back stalls to 3s for the front stalls and 2s 6d for the awkward corners either side of the pulpit. The architects were Maxwell and Tuke, who also designed Blackpool Tower.
In an advertisement for letting pews

in the Wesleyan Chapel at Congleton, dated April 1808, the most expensive seats were in the front row of the gallery, equivalent, I suppose, to the dress circle in a theatre.

Yours faithfully, JOHN ANDERSON. The Chapel Museum, Chapel Bank, Mow Cop, Stoke-on-Trent, Staffordshire.

Weekend Money letters, nage 43

How to safegua bequests of land

From Professor D. G. Barnsley Sir, Judicial decisions over the suggest that Mrs Watson's fatl law, whose charitable bequests houses were subsequently sold beneficiaries [letter, February] also letters, February 6, 8, 13 h been the only person whose mentary intentions have been ted. How to safeguard a gift (or c of land from its subsequent s these circumstances is a complex

in English law. It is a cardinal principle of ou law that property should be fre ienable (transferable). It is no sible for a testator to attach a cion to a devise of land which se prevent the beneficiary from sell Such a restraint is said to be con

to public policy.

However, a similar result m achieved indirectly. It would be sible, for example, to leave a ho the University of X for the reside its Vice-Chancellor and to att condition that should the house to be used for such a purpose, th property should pass to another ficiary. This is known in law as over. The prospect of losing the erty would normally act as an tive for the university to abide testator's wishes. Careful drafting of the will

be essential to ensure that the git to the other beneficiary took effect ing the time limit allowed by th for this type of gift. This wou course, be a matter for conside by the solicitor preparing the w

Yours faithfully, D. G. BARNSLEY, University of Leicester, Faculty of Law. University Road, Leicester. February 12

From Mr D. I. Williams

Sir. I believe that the charitable of Sir Angus Watson's beques house to the City of Newcastle Tyne has been preserved. The remained in use as a children? valescent home until 1980, who reorganisation of children's se in our hospitals made it redui Efforts were made to find alter. uses consistent with the origin but to no avail, and the Charity mission was consulted and the

The proceeds of sale constitut endowment of a fund for the ber children who are sick or conval and who are, or have been, in th of hospitals within the city.

Yours faithfully, DEREK WILLIAMS (Secretary). Newcastle University Hospitals Special Trustees. Royal Victoria Infirmary, Newcastle upon Tyne. February 12.

Bookfair fire

From Mr Matthew Evans

Sir, At 3.25pm on February 3 th cutta Bookiair burnt down (Ne brief, February 4). Behind this statement lies the fact that in jus 40 minutes fire, aided by a s wind, burnt down more than publishers' stands, killing one p

and injuring 44. The 22-strong delegation of B publishers, led by me, were we sured and their livelihoods wer threatened by what had happ However, of the 600 or so stand troyed about 400 were manne small publishers, publishing in gali, whose stands were not ins In many cases money had been

rowed to exhibit at the fair. Book-purchasing in Calcutt quite different from elsewhere. are very few bookshops in the city the fair is the focal point of the year these small publishers, where the about 50 per cent of their annual iness. Many if not most of them been ruined by the fire and i inative ways must be devised t them back on their feet.

In consultation with the B Council in Calcutta those British lishers who attended the fair started a fund to help the smaller ian publishers. We hope that enmoney will be raised to allevia some small way the horrific bu on firms which lost everything.

Yours sincerely.
MATTHEW EVANS, c/o Publishers Association, 19 Bedford Square, WCI.

Silks' purses

From Mr Geoffrey Bernstein

Sir, I was surprised to read the ion of Messrs Stanley Brodie, C Hunt and Jonathan Harvie (all in today's letters page, on the su of Lord Lester of Herne Hill's ation. Whilst admirably concise clearly expressed this opinion surely work for junior counsel. requiring even one QC, let a three. It must be very dishearte for young, struggling members of Bar to find that the stars of the pr sion are prepared to take on mundane work such as this.

going to look like, when you recei Yours faithfully, G. D. BERNSTEIN.

I dread to think what the b

Geoffrey Bernstein & Co. 162 Regents Park Road, Finchley February !4.



COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE February 14: The Viscount of Arbuthnott was received by The Queen when Her Majesty conerred upon him the honour of Knighthood and invested him with the Insignia of a Knight of the Most Ancient and Most Noble

Order of the Thistle.
The Duke of Edinburgh. Patron. Outward Bound Trust, today attended the Outward Bound General Council at the Heritage Motor Centre, Gaydon, and was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Warwickshire (Mr Martin

opened the maintained careto Centre, Beswick House, Beswick Row, Manchester City Centre, and was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Greater Manchester (Colonel John Timmins). Her Royal Highness this afternoon visited Unipack Limited and opened the new pharmaceutical facility at Lancaster Way, Win-

gates Industrial Westhoughton, Bolton,

The following have been elected Fellows of the Institute of Physics:

Dr Tim Bruton, BP Solar,

Sunbury-on-Thames; Professor Christopher Chatwin, Sussex University: Dr Paul Ewart, Oxford

University: Dr Paul Ewart, Oxford University; Professor Robert Green, Sheffield Hallam Univer-sity; Professor Stephen Holloway, Liverpool University; Dr Mario Jakas, Universidad de la Laguna,

Mr Andrew McCormick, Braidfield High School, Clyde-bank; Professor John Mainstone, Queensland University, Australia; Dr Abdul Malik, Universiti Bru-nei Darussalam; Dr Colin Martin,

West Glasgow Hospitals University NHS Trust: Dr Jeffrey Penfold. Rutherford Appleton Laboratory. Didcot: Professor Sung Ho Choh, Korea University. Seoul.

South of Korea: Mr Mark Ware,

Publishing Director, Institute of Physics Publishing, Bristol.

Timothy Walker, Horti Profector

of the University Botanic Garden, has been appointed to an Ernes

Cook Lectureship in Conservation Biology from January 1.

Richard Elliott Jonathan Elliott (formerly of Oundle School), to a Bull Exhibitions in Classics and

Modern Languages.
Corinna Liddle (Bradford Gram-

mar School) to a Pope Exhibition

mar School to a Pope Exhibition in Modern Languages.
Glenn Brian Nesbitt (Royal School, Armagh), Tracy Anne Payton (King's School, Gloucester) and Christopher Michael Prestwich (Durham Johnston Company School) and Company

prehensive School to Coombi Exhibitions in Modern History.

University news

Somerville College

Elections

Institute

of Physics

BUCKINGHAM PALACE

February 14: The Princess Royal

President, The Princess Royal Trust for Carers, this morning

opened the Manchester Carers

School news

Cargilfield School The Governors of Cargilfield School, Edinburgh, amounce the appointment of Mr Andrew Morrison as Headmaster from September 1997. Mr Morrison is currently Under Master at Charterhouse and was previously Headmaster of Mowden Hall

Vorrhumberland. Lochinver House School.

ochinver House School celebrates its 50th Anniversary this year. The Midsummer Magic Rall, in celebration of this milestone in the school's history, will take place on June 21, 1997, at the School, All current parents, past parents, Old Boys and friends of the school are ther information please contact the School on 01707 653064 and details will be forwarded to you.

Memorial service

Lady Elibank

Lady Elibank
A memorial service for Lady
Elibank was held yesterday at the
Church of St Michael and All
Angels, Sunninghill, Berkshire.
The Rev T.W. Gunter officiated.
The Hon Tim Ersking-Murray
son, and Miss Sarah Demiss niece, read the lessons. The Rev Richard Tice gave an address. Mr Mark Dobell, tenor, sang Harry Lauder's Keep right on to the end of the Road.

Luncheon

Manle Leaf Club Miss Margaret Drabble was the

guest of honour at a luncheon of the Maple Leaf Club held yesterday at Over-Seas House, St. James's. Mrs Judith M. Steiner. chairman, presided. Mrs Margaret Coleman, President of the Canadian Women's Club, also

Weekend birthdays

Mr John Adams, composer, 50; Mr Clive Aslet, Editor, Country Life, 42: Sir Nicholas Bayne, diplomat, 60: Sir Harold Beeley, diplomat, 88: Sir William Bentley, diplomat. 70; Miss Claire Bloom, actress, 66; Mr Tony Bloom, deputy chair-man, Sketchley, 58; Sir Stephen Brown, former chairman, Stone-Platt Industries, 91; Earl of Carliste, 48; Mr Derek Conway, MP. 44; Mr Dan Crompton, former Chief Constable, Nottingham-shire, 56; Sir Maurice Drake, former High Court judge, 74; Mr Frank Dunlop, former director, 70: the Countess of Dysart, 83: Mr Greenway, MP, 51; Mr Gerald Harper, actor and broadcaster, 68; rarper, acur and broadcaster, osc the Earl of Jersey, 87; Professor Andrew Miller, Principal, Stirling University, 61; Sir Richard O'Brien, former chairman, Man-

Ward, 59; the Right Rev R.W. Woods, former Bishop of Worces-TOMORROW:

Mr Paul Builey, novelist, 60; Mr P.E.R. Bailey, former director, Garwick and Stansted Airports, 72; Mr fain Banks, author, 43; Mr James Beaton, GC, 54; Professor Robin Clark, FRS, chemist, 62; Mr Arthur Crook, former Editor, The Times Literary Supplement, 85; Mr F.G.R. Caming, painter, 67; Sir Anthony Dowell, ballet dancer, director, Royal Ballet, 54; Mr David Emms, former director, London Goodenough Trust for Overseas Graduxies, 72; Professor J.R. Farndon, consultant surgeon, 51; Mr David Griffiths, portrait painter, 58; Mr Peter Hain, MP. 47; Viscount Hanworth, 51; Profesary viscount risk word, 3t, Protessor Jeck Levy, mechanical engineer, 7t; Mr John McErroe, tennis player, 3t; Sir Michael Milne-Wasson, former chairman, Milne-Watson, former chairman, Bupu, 87; Mr J.D. Moore, Headmaster, St Dunstan's College, 54; Mr Peter Porter, poet, 68; Mr John Schlesinger, film director, 71; Sir James Swaffield, former directorgeneral and Clerk to the GLC, 73; Dr J. Tohin, anaesthetist, 83; Sir Peter Webster, former High Court judge, 73; Mr Nunc Wilkox, former chairman, the Gsrrick, 70. O'Brien, torner charman, Man-power Services Commission, 77; Mr C.F. Payne, torner Chief Constable, Clevetand, 67; Sir Wil-liam Reid, former Ombudsman, P.J. Squire, former Headmaster, Bedford Modern School, 60; Sir

Service dinners

HMS Vicery Mr Michael Portillo, Secretary of State for Defence, and Mrs Portillo were among the guests at a dinner held last night onboard HMS Victory in Portsmouth to mark the bicentenary of the Battle of Cape St Vincent. Admiral Sir Michael Bayce, Second Sea Lard and Commander-in-Chief Naval Home Command, was the host. The Lord-Lieutenant of South Glamorgan and Honorary Colo-nel Royal Regiment of Wales was among others present.

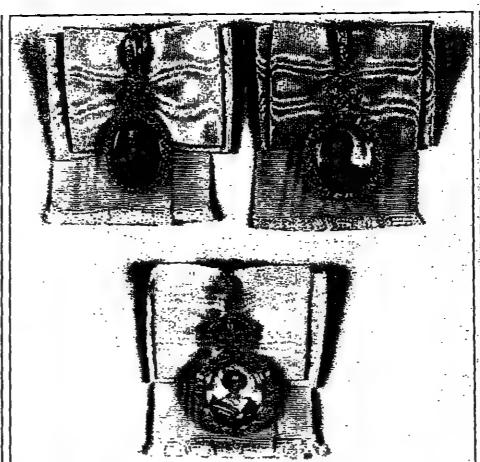
The Lord-Lieutement of Hampshire was the guest of bonour at a ladies night Valentine's dinner held last night onboard HMS Nelson on the bicentenary of the Battle of Cape St Vincent. Com-mander J.R. Wills presided.

HMS Collingwood
The Mayor and Mayoress of
Fareham attended a ladies night
dinner held last night onboard
HMS Collingwood. Commander
Jeff Blackett, Executive Officer,
presided, Mr Chris Kelly was the presided, by Cults Rear-Admiral J.G. Tollhurst, Flag Officer Scot-land, Northern England and Northern Ireland and Naval Base Commander Clyde, and Mrs. Telhurst were among the guests.

Dinners

Cardener Commy
The Lord Mayor and the Sherilis and their ladies were present at a livery and ladies dinner of the Gardeners' Company held last night at Mansion House. Mr LB. Flaragan, master, presided, Mr R.P. Franklin, Upper Warden, the Lord Mayor, and Dr Phil Dinnen, Headmistress of Woldingham School, also spoke, Among the guests were the Deacon of the Incorporation of Gardeners of Glasgow and Mrs Macgregor, the Cardoner Comme Glasgow and Mrs Macgregor, the Master of the Fruiterers Company and Mrs Tullett, and the Clerk of Zunft zu Gartnern Basel. Farriers' Company Mr Thomas L. Barler, Master of

the Parriers' Company, assisted by Mrs D.M. Pagan, Upper Warden, Mr T.F.M. Head, Middle Warden, and Mr R.J. Crocker, Renter Warden, presided at a court tadles dinner held iast night at Drapers' Hall. Assistant Simon J. Curtis, Mr R.S. Windsor and Judge Harvey Crush also spoke.



These badges of King George V's Family Order, King George VI's Family Order and The Queen's Family Order form part of a display of royal insignia which go on show at Windsor Castle today until July 6. The insignia — badges, stars, collars and medals — have been collected over the centuries by successive British. Kings and Queens and have never been on show together to the public before

Anniversaries

TODAY BIRTHS: Guilleo Galilei, mathematician and astronomer, Pisa, 1564; King Louis XV of France, reigned 1715-74, Versailles, 1710; Jeremy Bentham, Utilitarian philosopher, London, 1748; Sir Ernest Shackleton, Antarctic ex-plorer, Kilkee, Co Clare, 1874; John Barrymore, actor, Philadelphia, 1882; H.M. Bateman, cartoonist, Sutton Forest, New South Wales, 1887; Graham Hill, racing driver,

London, 1929. DEATHS: Henry Deme, Archbishop of Canterbury 1901-03, London, 1903; Anthony Ashley Cooper, 3rd Earl of Shaftesbury,

writer, Naples, 1713; Mildail Glinks, composer, Berlin, 1857; Alexander Borodin, composer, St Petersburg, 1887; Lew Wallace, American Civil War general and author of Ben Hur, Crawfords-villa Indiana, 1005; Sthat Man. ville, Indiana, 1905; Ethel Merman, singer, New York. 1984. The first cargo of frozen meat left New Zealand, bound for Britain, on the SS Dusedin, 1882.

Singapore surrendered to the Japanese Army, 1942.
Allied bombing began on Monte Cassino monastery in Italy, 1944.
Britain changed to decimal currency, 1971.

TOMORROW BIRTHS: Giambattista Bodoni. type designer, Saluzzo, Italy, 1740; George Macaulay Trevelyan, his-torian, Welcombe, Warwickshire, 1876: Robert Flaherty, film direc-

DEATHS: Richard Mead, physician, London, 1754; Lionel Lukin, lifeboat pioneer, Hythe, Kent, 1834; Leslie Hore-Belisha, 1st Barron Hore-Belisha, statesman and inventor of "Belisha beacons", Rheims, 1957.

The first British cheque was written by Nicholas Vanacker, 1659. The Athenaeum founded, 1824. Fidel Castro became Prime Mininter of Cube. 1959.

The American nuclear submarin USS Triton set off on an under-water round-the-world voyage, 1960.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr. P.A. Barnos

and Mrs G. Harrison
The engagement is announced
between Francis, son of the late Mr and Mrs A.P. Barnes, of Purbrook, Hampshire, and Greer, daughter of Mrs D. Woodyau and the late Mr Jack Woodyatt, of Ashbourne, Derbyshire.

Mr E.M.P. Boggis-Rolfe and Mrs G.M. Filipovich

The engagement is announced between Edward, son of Mr and Mrs Nicholas Boggis-Rolfe, of London, and Galina, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs Mikhail Mr B.A. Dyer and Miss C.O. Munro

The engagement is announced between Bruce, son of Mr and Mrs Brian Dyer; of Braintree, Essex, and Clare, daughter of Dr and Mrs. Donald Munro, of Basingstoke, Hampshire. Mr CAM. Grassini

The engagement is semousced between Corrado, elder son of Mr and Mrs Renato Grassini, of Milan, Italy, and Annabelle, youn-gest daughter of Mr and Mrs Robert Varnos, of Chesham, Buckinghamshire.

Mr D.J.T. Mynors and Miss C. Mansell The engagement is announced between David, son of the late Mr J.M. Mynors and of Mrs Una Mynors, of Hunoingham, and Claire, daughter of Mr and Mrs Roy Mansell, of Todwick.

Mr S.J. Noskes and Mrs J.P. Burke The engagement is announced between Simon Noakes, of Wimbledon, and Jenniler Prichard Burke, of Surbiton. The marriage will take place in London, on July

19, 1997. Mr.A.D. Ward and Miss V.J. Jenkin The engagement is announced herween Anthony, son of Mr and Mrs W.D. Ward, of Shalford, Surrey, and Victoria, daughter of Mr and Mrs R.P. Jenkin, of

Crannock, Cornwall, Mr G.P. Williams and Dr K.M. Webb-Peploe and Dr K.M. Webb-Peploe
The engagement is announced
between Gareth elder son of Mr
and Mrs Allan Williams, of
Grange-over-Sands, Cumbria,
and Katharine, daughter of Dr
and Mrs Michael Webb-Peploe, of
Clauseras Surreau Claygate, Surrey.

Latest wills

Lady Burbridge, of Reading, Berkshire, left estate valued at £277,816 net. Lady Anderson, of Cambridge,

left extrite valued at £300.409 net. She left her residuary estate to Mazzo Trust of Wendover, Buckingham-shire, for charitable purposes. Robert Michael McMorland, of RODERT MICHAEL MCMOTERIO, OF Itchen Abbas, Winchester, Hamp-shire, left £2,500 to Cancer Research Campaign: £10,000 to the RNLI; £7,500 to the Nettonal Trust and to Wesser Children's Hospice Trust, and £1,000 to Reben Abbas Parish Church.

Arthur Geoffrey Price, of Penarth, Vale of Glamorgan, left £1,196,135

Douglas Pole Welsman, of St Cross, Winchester, Hampshire, left estate valued at £591,103 net. June Rosalind Wilkie, of London June Rosalmo Willide, of London No. left £522,489 not. She left £50,000 to Westminster school to endow a bursary for The Oneen's Schoolary Special Fund plus the remainder of her estate to endow.

e bursary for girls entering Westminster School at sixth form level to study the sciences. Pelham Harper Maidand, of London N3, left E716.938 net.
He left £250,000 to the Basset Hound
Club to be used for basset hound
rescue plus shares in residuary estate
to other animal charities.

WIL

Maurice Lee, of Leeds, left El.163.040 net.
He left E3.000 to the Jewish Home and Rospital and to the J.N.F. Charitable Trust North East Region Branch. Dennis Mercer, retired estate

agent, of Southport, Lancashire, left EL 498,145 net. Gladys Broughton, of Nether Alderley, Cheshire, left £1,493,080 net. She left L500 each to the PDSA, the RSPCA, and Wood Green Animal Shelter.

Helen Josephine Mary Bernadette Bolton, of Harcombe, Sidmouth, Devon, left estate valued at £1,275,844 net.

pdere (Fauréi, Rev D Lewson; 6 Choral E, Causson, De profundis (Gipcic),

ST JAMES'S, Pleastily 8:30 RC; 11 S Euch, Peter Clare, \$45 EP.

ST POHN'S, Stratford 119: | Family Communion, Tric Square No. | Bachi, Rev D Richards, L30 EP & Fraise, Rev D Richards.

ST LUKES, Cheisea, SW3: 10.30 S forth, O sahrzer's hostis (Micholson), Rev C Kevill-Davies, 12.15 EC: 6.30 E, Hear my prayer (Mendelssohn), Rev C Kevill-Davies.

ST MARGARETS, Regents Park Rd. NW1: 8 HC: 9.45 Emmily Communion; 11 S Euch. Missa Orbis Packer. Plorates pionwis (Cortes), Rev T Devocation Planets.

ST MARGARETS, Westminster. SW1: 11 S Euch. Missa Cantuagirensis (Rubbra), Lamentations part 1 (Tailis). Rev Dr P Pradshos.

Church services tomorrow

First Sunday in Lent

ST ANDREWS CATHEDDAL, ABERDALINE S

HC: (2.15 S Each, Short Service (Barson), Average

HC: (2.15 S Each, Short Service (Barson), Average

HC: (2.15 S Each, Short Service (Barson), Average

(Mendebsonn),

ARMAGH CATHEDRAL: 10 HC: 11 \$ Euch,

Ceiffe Buch; (White), Incline thine our

(Himmen), The Dean; 3.15 Ch. B. Harris in A

minor, Wash me throughly (Washey),

SELEAST CATHEDRAL: 10 HC: 11 Choral Himmell, The Dean: 3.15 Ch E. Harris in A minor, was noe throughly (waitey).

SELFAST CATHEDRAL: 10 HC 11 Chorni Communion, Darke in P. Miserere such Allegric 3.30 Chorni E. Noble in B minor, trening Hymn (Gardiner).

SEMINOLIAM CATHEDRAL: 9 MP, 9.15 HC: 11 Chorni Enca. March for three voices (Syrul, 51 industrias (Western, Rev Dr & Weich: 4 Chorni E. Remember O' Lord (Welmisley). Rev E. Elckern. BRECON CATHEDRAL: 8 Floty Each; 11 M. Bernellette (Bastere in B. Ref., Thes Enowes: Lord the secrets of our bears (Purcell), 3.30 Wester in F. O Lord look down for Secretar (Baster)

(Batrishill).

ENTITO: CATHEDRAL CODES Green: 7.40

F. 1 H.C. 10 Chorni Euch, Mars for four values (Byrd), Call to remembrance (Parand, Canon Plomoson, J.30 Choral E. Siar in B. misos, thou wilt keep him (Sumsion), Canon J. Simuson.

Flohnson, J.30 Choral E. Blair in B. milrow, thou with keep him Sumston, Canon J. Improv.
CANTERSHET CATHEDRAL: I HC. 9.30 M. Rev F Pickard: II S Buch. Mass in G minor (Yangkan Williams, Cod Falch has in prepared (Mudol), Rev C Precoc, 3.15 E. Fifth Service (Tomidins), Balve internental (Talkis), 6.30 Compilier The Archescon of Canterbury.
CARLING CATHEDRAL: 7.35 M. 8 HC. 10.30 S. Bock, Darle in R. Araweran cantus (Bryol), The Bishop of Puritin, I S. Bach.
Lord for thy tender mercles's sake (Hillion).
CHEAMSFORD CATHEDRAL: 7.35 M. 8 HC. 10.10 S. Thompson: II.15 S Buch. Cheimstond Mass (Yang), An heart that: broken Didrovid, Rev I Monody: 6 Choral E. Ries Service (Weillass).
CHESTER CATHEDRAL: 7.45 M. 8 HC. 10 Chemi Euch. Hawwood in A hat, less Lamb of God. Exchenger Photzard. Canton J Newcomet.
130 Choral M. Pe Doum (Stanford in B Hal. Less in Lamb of God. Schenger Photzard. Canton J Newcomet.
130 E.P. 6.30 E.S. Canon P Cartespense.
CHESTER CATHEDRAL: 7.40 MB; 8
Communion: 10.30 Exch. Are verum compass (Bryol).
COVENTEY CATHEDRAL: 7.40 MB; 8
Communion: 10.30 Exch. Are verum compass (Bryol).
COVENTEY CATHEDRAL: 7.40 MB; 8
Communion: 10.30 Exch. Are verum compass (Bryol).
Ave verum compass (West). MC. Canon F Percention.
11.15 HC. Darke in E. Reiserer and Bryol.
Canon D Brown: 1.30 Exch. Are verum compass (Bryol).
Excent The Service (Parcell). Lived in S Bat. Are verum compass (Parcell). Li

GUILDPORD CATHERDRAL: 8 HC, Rev Or I Pither; 9.45 S Euch, Misse Tertis (Hanning, Crucifizion (Millings), Env J Clark: 11.35 M. jobilate in 8 for Porcesif, O seviour of the world (Good, Canon Dr M Palmer; 6.30 Walmistey in D minor, Thou with Resp him in period poece (Westy), The Sub-Osan. periest peace (Wester), The Bat-Dean.
HINGEFORD CATHEDRAL & HC. 10 Buth. Let
thy merciful our (Muddl. Storssion in F. O
seviour of the world (Palestrian), The
Treasurer: 11,30 M. Benedicine (Lioyd in 8 fm),
Jubiliste (Storce in C: 3.30 E. Paurisoureous
Landread, Expectants expenser) (Wood),
LENCESTER CATHEDRAL: 8 HC. 10 M: 10,30
Buch. kyris (Teyremer), Sanctus Benedicins
Agnus (Leighton), Herrick's Ode or Pauline in
God (Newbold), Linury (Day). The Bullop of
Rochester: 4 Chord E. Piers Revies (Gibbons),
Them will keep him (Wester), Canon T Cirling,
LECHFORD CATHEDRAL: 8 HC. 19,30 E Buch. (ireland).
LINCOLN CATREDRAL: 7.45 Linary; & HC, 9.30 & Ench. Pour part mass (leyro), Emendemus in melius (Byro), The Deart 11.15 M, Collegium Regule (Linwells), Hear my prayer (Purcell), The Sabdean; 12.30 HC, 345 E. Mourill in E. A hymn of St Columba (britten). LIVERPOOR, CATHEDORAL: 8 MP & RG 10.30 Linary & Earch, The Dean; 9 Choral E. Crisco D. Humon: 4 HC.

LANDAFF CATHEDORAL: 7.30 M & Linary & Hoty Euch, The Dean; 9 Parish Eoch, The Dean; 19 Parish Eoch, The Dean; 11 S Eoch, Whillock in E Sal, Come my way, nor train, my life (Hariser, 19 Parish Eoch, The Dean; 13 S Eoch, Whillock in E Sal, Come my way, nor train, my life (Hariser, 19 Parish Eoch, The Dean; 12 Li S Hoty Eoch, 150 Choral E. Walensisey in D milnor, Thou with usen him in perfect passe (Redmand); 6.30 Parish E & Semmon, Mr V Steele.

NEWCASTLE CATHEDORAL: 7.30 M: 8 HC. Cannon I Bennere: 9.30 S Eoch, Missa Asternachinisti summer (Palestrina), Are verum corpus and the Prancisco de Persistent. Cannot I frament; 6 Coctai E. Dordan service; (fallis).

NEWFORT CATHEDORAL: 7.30 MP; 8.9.15 HC; 10.30 6 Eoch, Missa O quarn glotosum (Montaia, Callis, NEWFORT CATHEDORAL: 7.30 MP; 8.9.15 HC; 10.30 S Eoch, Missa Assumpha et Maria (Falestrina), O Savisor of the world (Howells, 19 R).

NORWICH CATHEDORAL: 7.30 MP; 8.9.15 HC; 10.30 S Eoch, Missa Assumpha et Maria (Falestrina), O Savisor of the world (Howells, 19 Eoch, Missa Massumpha et Maria (Falestrina), O Savisor of the world (Howells, 19 Eoch, Missa Massumpha et Maria (Falestrina), O Savisor of the world (Howells, 19 Eoch, Cathedora, E. 15 HC; 2.30 M, Repedicite in F (Dyson; 10.30 Sech, Chilegium Begale (Howells), Hear my prayer (Manuel), The Chancellor 3.30 E. Collegium Persis Communica, Mass of 51 Thomas (Thomas, Then the Massumpha et man my star (Manuel), The Chancellor 3.30 E. Collegium Persis Communicat, Mass of 51 Thomas (Thomas, Then the Massumpha et man my star (Manuel), The Chancellor 3.30 E. Collegium Persis Communicat, Mass of 51 Thomas (Thomas, Then the Massumpha et man my star (Manuel), The Chancellor 3.30 Change Sech, Missa brevis Palestrina, Ave verum (Byrd), The Dean; 12.50 Edea, Cathedora, Sech, Missa brevis Palestrina, Ave verum (Byrd), The Dean; 12.50 Edea, Cathedora, Sech, Missa brevis Palestrina, Ave verum (Byrd), The Dean; 12.50 Edea, Cathedor

very zer il Weiton: 3 R. 18 EMEA, Reisson in G. Jesu dulles memoria. (Thephand, Canon Singlair, 6.30 E & Sermon, 2cond Service (Edbona), Cantique de Jean Bacine (Rann), The Provost. SOUTHWELL MINSTER: 7.48 Dany: 8 HC 9.30 Parish Communico, The Fronce; 11 M. Almighty and evenisating God (Gibbons, Portell in D. Stessed B be Oxyros, the Chanceller; 3.15 E, O Saviour of the World يتركروا كال TRUBU CATHEDRAL & MC 0 M: (0.3 Euch.
Miss brevis (Chesthau), Wash me throughly
(Wesley), The Librarian; 6 E. Short Service
(Caussian), Turn thee Ento me (Boyce), The WAKTITULD CATHEDRAL: 1 HC. Canon C Natro-Briggs: 9.15 Parish Communion. Carnon I Know, 11 Solemn Buch, Canon D Barter. Cardon I Ricce; 11 Solemin Bach, Cardon D Butter.

Wells: Catherdral: 4 BiC 9.45 8 Euch, Missa sectors. Chrism muners. Patentinal, Drop drop sion was feathon, Rev & Parmar, 11.30 M. Stanford in C. Cruciffors (Vivalde, 3 E. Day in 8 Bak. Fach me introppely (Westey, Free N. Reol.

Westney and Company of the Stanford in C. Cruciffors (Vivalde, 3 E. Day in 8 Bak. Fach me introppely (Westey, Free N. Reol.

Westney of the introppely (Westey, Free N. Reol.

Berr R. Bollower, 11.15 Edoch, Mass in four parts (Byrd), Freech is O Lord (Byrd), Ave verum corpus (Byrd), Rev B. Peribar, 3 E. Stanford in A. O Lord (Byrd), Ave verum corpus (Byrd), Rev B. Peribar, 3 E. Stanford in A. O Lord Almighty God (Naylon), Lancot D Hum, 3.45 Recipil 6.50 Es. Cardon A. Hervey,

WINDERSTER CATHEDRAL: 2 HC 10.30 M. To Beng, ave verum corpus (Byrd), 30 E. Rarwood in A. Dat, Blessed be the God and Furber (Westey), 6.30 Eventson (Byrd), Salvador Missald (Falle), Cardon F. Winsmood, Worderster, Catherdral: 2.30 Result (Westey), 6.30 Congregational Service, Arthouse of Winsmood.

WORK MINSTER: 8.4.45 HC; 10 S Euch, Missa in C. Winsmood, Arthouse of Winsmood.

WORK MINSTER: 8.4.45 HC; 10 S Euch, Missa in C. Winsmood, Arthouse of Winsmood.

WORK MINSTER: 8.4.45 HC; 10 S Euch, Missa in C. Winsmood, Arthouse of Winsmood.

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WORK MINSTER: 8.4.55 HC; 10 S Euch, Missa in C. Winsmood, Arthouse of Winsmood.

WORK MINSTER: 8.4.55 HC; 10 S Euch, Missa in C. Pouter of Winsmood.

WORK MINSTER: 8.4.55 HC; 10 S Euch, Missa in C. Winsmood, Arthouse of Winsmood.

WORK MINSTER: 8.4.55 HC; 10 S Euch, Missa in C. Pouter of Winsmood.

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WORK MINSTER: 8.4.55 HC; 10 S Euch, Missa in C. Pouter of Winsmood.

WORK PRINCE (VARIGIAIN WILLIAMS).

ST ASAFF CATHEDRAL, Cowyol & HC, 11 Choral Such, Summon in F. And world carpais (Biggs), Ven J Davier, 3:30 KF.

IT BINMINGSBURT CATHEDRAL: 8 HC, Rev R Davier, 10 Ench, Sandensiend Service, Canon M West, 11:30 HC, Canon S Petitin 3:30 E.

ST GROBEST CATHEDRAL: Southwark: 4,10.6 LM: 11:30 Soiema M. Mass for four voices (Brod), in Cod alone is my soul at rest (Persand). Ber J Conting; 3 Stations of the Cross. Service, 11:30 Lich. News (Restrictor). In leitundo a dom (Pallist, Tot Davier, F. S. Westey in F. Q.

Lors look down from heaves (Emmolis), Ven G Cassidy, 5 Rechal.

KRESIAN OFF BOOGH CATHEDRAL Embo more Gardets, London. SW7: 10.30 Divine Harry. Klevin and traditional polyphony. Diocesa Eshap Mc. antanny. SOUTHER CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9.45 M. Salvator mundi (Blow), in leiunio et fiend (Billist); 10.30 S Euch, Missa Papae Marchii (Palestrian), Canon B Les; 3.15 E Summion in G. Loro lei me lonow mine and (Greene). 2ALISBURY CATHEDRAL: 8 HC, Canon D Share 10 Euch, Canon D Durmon; 11.30 M, Very Lev D Watson; 3 E. THE ASSUMPTION, Warwick Street, W1: []
Mess fauls thin (Palestrian). Seniores populi
(Vinoria), O Lord Increase my taith (Globoins).
CERLIFRA OLD CHURCH, EWS: 8 HC; 10
Children's Service, 1] M. Die truck story
(ASSON), Rev D Searc 12.15 HC 6 E, Rev Dr F
Etry.
CERLIFRA W. WI: 11 SUDDITISTION . WI: 8, 930, 1230, 4.15, 6.15

TARM STREET, WI: 8, 930, 1230, 4.15, 6.15

TARM STREET, WI: 8, 930, 1230, 4.15, 6.15

TARK STREET, WI: 8, 930, 1230, 4.15, 6.15

TARK TREET, WI: 8, 930, 1230, 4.15

TARK TREET, WI: 8, 930, 1230, AMERICAN APOSTOLIC CHURCH: Nersa Gass, WSP ! Holy Mass, Accobishop Y Goldina. Gens. WELL Holy Mass. Archbishop & Geltinia.
WESLETS CHAPEL City Road. BCh: 9.45 HC.
11 Moraing, Rev Dr I. Griffiths.
WESLETS CHAPEL City Road. BCh: 9.45 HC.
11 Moraing, Rev Dr I. Griffiths.
WESTAMPETTAK. ENTRY LAW. (Methodial., 5W1: 11 HC & Confirmation. Ber Dr F Genre., 530 HC. 11 S. Buch. Marc Annols., 5W7: 830 HC. 11 S. Buch. Marc Annols. ingenest (Victoria).

87 ANNE AND ST AGNES (Lutheran).
67 ANNE AND ST AGNES (Lutheran).
67 Gresham S., 5C2: 11 Choral Buch. Rev F Schmieger 7 Bach Verpers. Herr Got disch, Die mit Transo (Schein), Rev V Lacosek.
87 FRATTSOLOMEW THE CRUEAT. SIMBLED.
88 FT BASTSOLOMEW THE GREAT. SIMBLED.
88 FT PARTSOLOMEW THE GREAT. SIMBLED.
88 FT PARTSOLOMEW THE GREAT. SIMBLED.
88 FT PARTSOLOMEW THE GREAT. SIMBLED.
87 THE SIMBLED. SIMBLED. SI SERVE RET THE SIMBLED.
87 THE SIMBLED. SIMBLED. SI SERVE RET THE SIMBLED. S CENTRIBLE, CRION J ORDER.

17 CLEMENT GARDER: 11 Choral Buck, Many
for the votices (Byrd), Civitas sancti tol (Byrd),
New I Thomas.

17 COLIMINA'S CHURCH OF SCOTLAND,
FORE STREET, SWI: 11 New C MacLeod; 6:30 Rev
W Calms. W Caims.

ST ETHELDREDA'S. Ely Place: 11 5 Mans.
Mars for the voices (Byrd), Creine stanct ha
(Byrd), Peccanien use quedale (Pausstine).

T COURSES, Hanover Square, W1: 3.30 HC
11 8 Soch, Oante in A miner, The RecenST JAMES'S, Garischydie, EOS: 10.30 S Euch.
(1662, John Paul, Rector.

12.30 HC: 9.30 Parish Epcia. Set D Wedge. 11.15 Choral M. Rev F Gelli; 6.30 B, Mr N Pain. ST MART'S, Bourne Street, SW1: 9. 10.7 LM; 11 HM., Communion Service (Causton), Archdeacan G Reid; 6 Solemn E 4 H.
ST MART-THE-VIESTN, Primross Hill: 5 HC, 10.30 Parish Buch, Out of the deep (Lapo), Mars (Plainsong), Rev S Webster; 6 Tales Service. STYLO.

ST MARTLEBONE, Marylebone Road, W1: 8
HC 11 Choral Each, Mass for five valous (Byrd),
salvator munoi (Tallis), see 9 Wells.

ST MSCHARL'S. Combill. EC3: 11 Choral
Service, Renations (Purcel in C. Senedicon
Kilbbons in F., Salvator mundi (Blow), Fr S
Humphreys. CODOOS IN P. SAIVALOF MURCH (SHOW), PT S
HUMDHINEYA.

ET PAULS, Withou Place, SWI: 8, 9 HC; 11
Solemn Burch, Missa pro Gefuncis (Americ),
There is an old belleft Paury, Vines mea electa
(Poulenct, Ven Biacho.
CHAPEL ROYAL OF ST PITTER AD VINCIRA.
ING TOWER of London: 915 HC, Res P ADVANC.
11 M & Sainton, Benedicitis (Paille), Salvator
Muncil B (Tallie), Rev P ADVANC.
CHAPEL ROYAL, St. James's Palacet 8.30 HC;
11.15 MP, O pray for the peace (Nowells),
CHAPEL ROYAL, Bantapage Chart Palacet 8.30
HC; 11652; 11 M & Linny, Purcell in B flai
Litary (Lousemore; 2.10 %, Second Service
Tomking), Remember not Lord our offences
(Purcell). (OMERIC, REPERIDET TO LOTE OF OUT OFFICE.

(PURCEL).

ROOVENOR CLAFT. South analysis Street.

WI: 8.5 HC: 11 S EUCh, Missa Sperm in Allum (Falestrina). Missrare mel Domina (Allegri). Litany (Tallis), Rev S Hobbs.

O'ALT-T CLAFT. OF THE SAVOY. WC2. 11 S

EUCh, Lern I (Gibbons). Chapitale of Merchant Taylors shoot level follows.

THE THE THE CRUMENT, WHE Street 1.00 HC. 5 EP. Magnificat (Sumston in G. Nume diminist (Sumston in G. The sortows of my been are enlarged (Boyos).

GIBARDS CRAFSI. Wellington Barracis. SWI: 11 M. Lent prose (Plainsong). Miscrere (Allegri). Band of the Weish Guards. Rev I. BYAN. 1.2 HC.

ENYAL 1.2 HC.

SEIG: 11 S Euch (BCP), Shaw. Note morrow permators (Mortey), Rev C French. ST JAMES'S, Sussex Gardens, W2: 8 Euch; 10.30 S Euch, Missa brevis (Palestrina) Po

0880 481 4000

66; Miss Jane Seymour, actress, 46; Miss Clare Short, MP, 51; Mr

PERSONAL COLUMN

TRADE: 0171 481 1982 FAX: 0171 481 9313

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B	MDS: 0171 68 RIVATE: 0171	
	cipture says, I will desible windom of the wine, sing to nothing the sirests of the claves. Orinthiums 1:19	
В	IRTHS	
=		
4	and the list of Sand Sand Sand Sand Sand Sand Sand Sand	9
1	BHOP - On 12th Februar Lughter for Wayne : lamb. Welcome to Rub off June, Jean, Gerald : Time.	1
	NAK - On Sth February Rosen Marry's, Rosenump Alex god Marie (role In drogister, Southa Mar- later for William	1
C a	1988 - On 13th Februar The Chelies / Testinater Hospital htterine (nor Hardm and Richard, a daugh mile Louise.	
i i	ipo - On 10th Febru 997 at The Porti iospital, to Amanda : rundi, a gorgeous daugi har to Dan ad Le	
i i	The Purchase House, ondon, to Leonard here, a son, Felip Mile source for Human	(C
J.	ne Portland Hospital akyung (née Moon) : mes, a son, Jame, a ho or Lama.	ů.

BIRTHS DEATES PHILIPS - Both Tuesday 11th February 1997, at Westmoreland Hospital, Kendal, Cumbria, to Sally (nie Parcett) and Josephan, a wonderful daughter, SWAN - On February 9th 1997, to Mary (nde Sheppard) and Andrew, a designed Marida has Lex

TABOR - On February 9th 1997, a Gendle and Perrick, a daughter, Rosanna Elimbert Smith (Rosa), a pitter for Rogala, Money and hunter

GOLDEN

BAKER-HODGSOM-JONES - On 15th February 1947 at St Paul's Church, Redbill, George to Joyou, "How do I Jame the state the Count the

of Box, Wilts and Flore Theress (nie Smythe) formerly of Kirksle, Liverpool, celebrate 50 years of marriage on Saturday 15th February 1997, Computations! PATTISSON - On February 11th, to Francheska (née Every) and William, a daughten, Louign Bridget, a sister for Frederick and

BEDFORD - John Fatrick, darling husband of Gabrialle, leving, patient and high fether and from the first and BEDFORD - John Patrick, darling husband of Gabrielle, leving, patient and index for the least of Harlane and finder and f

Filigrimage Trust may be sunt efo Camp Hopson & Co. Ltd., 6-12 Northbook Street, Northbook, BG14 12H 141: (01635) 522210. Christoms may no longer be

CATTERALL - Marquerite (Madge) on 12th February 1997 suddenly in Lincoln County Hospital, believed to the heart of Robert, john, Gemid and Howard. She left us as she would have wished, swiftly with great digasity. Funeral Service on Friday 21st February at 2.30 pm at Lincoln Crematerium. Funity flowers only please but if dealed formate left Camete Relief may be sent to the Co-op Funeral Service, 12 Forumed Fower Lincoln, 12 Fower Li CLOUGH - Pencetally on 12th February 1997 at Louries Buspital, Liverpool, Habel Visia, helper are of the late of t

hond, East Molessy KTS Off.

COMSYABLE CLEY/or,
suddenly at home on Felday
Feldwary 7th aged 92. Nuch
loved husband of Cadys and
a dear father, summitative; a

and great-grandfather, a

Earthwest Will be bein

Hardwest Will be bein

Hardwest Will be bein

(01234) 112876. (01-234) ILENIC.

CHOWER Adrian David (known as David), died settlenly on February 11th 1997. Sorely missed by Joss, his statur Betry, his sons James and Marcus, benations of desired to Reinish Dispetie Association and Althebraic's Dispetie Association and Althebraic's Dispetie (URIN) 745-4111.

BOOMTH - Count Barrier.

Bon (VIII) 763-411.

Boddesly and susceptibility, at home in Runford Beloved hupband, father and geneticities. Personal Service on Thermal Personal Service at 2 per at The Cathelia Count of Cat Law and 3: Peter Aldeburgh, Seffolk. Flowers to Tony Browns. Funeral Service, Sections/James 1, 264-11. 80ED - RM. (Ann.), whose of Roger, percentully at Relevant VII Empired on February 18th, Hamschil Spring to be

MARDING - Frank of Bishopomes, new Swindow, comfortably at home on Schrony 13th 1977. Present at Bishopomes on February 21st at 2 pm. Paully flower only please, donations if festing it at the Charles Bishopotome, cle Mr A Patrioti, Seythour House, Michigation, Swindow, Wile. 196 5:77. Enquiries take (01772) 122797. PIERS - Constance (non-formiers), wife of the later less plan of Install and medical section of manifest amidst leving family, plants, flowers and cardina. Department to Christian Mid-landon Link, burning family.

JOSEPHE - Elroy, Scaler Lecturer and Chamographer, died 5th Pebruary 1997. Elewest or dengines and all enquiries to james Crock Panteral Directors, (D181) 459-4561.

hobse, on Petrony 12th, after a thort illness, in Northunytee General householders by a Service of Instanton believed by a Service of Instanton, (91295) 265434.

Jumble - Gregory Patrick - Promote Director Squards we retropolition University on Petersary (th at age 45. A much respected and valued protectional colleague and trained framed framed or all. His entiry sed parameters will be a great lown. His major contribution to Higher Squards with the Ligher Squards with the Ligher Squards with the Ligher Squards with the Ligher Squards with the University staff, the Governous and many is the wider community season the wife patrick, children and his deathy. mbells - On Fahrmay 16th Insequellies Diame in the Middlesex Roupital percentage of the second secon

February percefully at 1977 pencefully at 1977 penc

WADE - Varnom Arthur Tunning, Major LL (1976). Pencetolly in his Flat year at Weynedge Hospital after a beief illness. In Stenory of a dearly leved Detter of Hermicone, inthe february of Riccin and Jo-Jo; atmired by all who know him. Cremation at 3t John's, Wolking, on Tunning 18th February at 11am. Houses to Lodge Rus. Funetal Directors, 36-38 High Street, Werbridge, ET13 SAB, tel: (01932) 2556758. We deeply more true passing of one of Hermicoland hadde that Non-and Store in Provencial country.

the 1977 has Fish Chilly of Filton, after a short illness. Dearly loved daughter of Margaret, devoted nother of Guy and Catharine and assing frame of Dave. Funeral on Translay 20th February at 3pm in Filton Church. Family flowers asly. Donations, if desired, to Guide Days for the Mind. YOURS - On February 18th, peacefully, Fiona, greatly loved wife of Sir Brian Young, Much loved by her children Jounna, Timothy and Deborah and by her saves grandshildren. Puneral Survice at St James, Connaids Cassa, 3 pts, Friday February 21st.

willTour - Colin A.E. of Longwell Green, Eritol, late of Lingwell Green, and Lingwell Green, and Cariona, Loring father-ha-law of Rod and Peter. Sect grandpa of Alistair and Common, of Medical and Common, on Wednesday February 19th at 11 am followed by cremation at Heycombe, Bath. Plowers or if pusitared donations for the Restol Oncology Unit to Bryan G. Bishop Faneral Service, Hallatrow Boad, Prodon, meer Eristol.

WILLINGS - Passed away saddenly on Wednesday, Subdenly 12th 1997 at The Jersey General Hospital, Arthur James (Em) aged Stywes. Nucle level husband of Measurest and Earlie of Measurest and Indian Company of Measurest Measurest and Indian House Seat Indian Williams on Teneday 18th February Family flowers only please, donations may be suit in memory of Arthur Williams the The Jersey Measure Measurest in Measure of Arthur Williams the The Jersey Measure Measurest in Section 18 Section 18 Section 18 Section 18 Helies, Jersey 12 M.A. Enguines to Pitcher & Le Queens Ltd., Funeral Blancher, eac 01534-32320.

inter 100 ATT.

ANNOUNCEMENTS LAND - A Nemorial Service for Barham Mary Lund will be held on Tuesday Inth March 1997 at 12 noon in the Chunch of St James the Less, Priory Street, Colchester, Essez. He Clower at the church instead please send my services in the large Mary Land Trust Fund for the benefit of her three children or Lived Sank. for Dr. Derrick Robert Poffert, Pellow of St. John's College, Cambridge 1984 -1996 and formerly University Lecturer in Music, will be held in St. John's College Chapal on Science 1 a Music 1977 of RIRTEDAYS MAPPY SHITHDAY, Make it a very huppy bistings for expectes special — senounce % in the thread Can 0271 str 1952 ANNOUNCEMENTS Clos, Inchy & Hile. SERVICES LET the organic halo see to know you as the second 1961. Rostingsta, Cantachary, GTI WANTED GAMEO and Rampel jesselbry, also silkstores and ministers. Phone 01273 747683

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Nora Beloff, author and journalist, died on February 12 aged 78. She was born on January 24, 1919.

FOR a period of thirty years on The Observer, first as a foreign correpondent and later as its political correspondent Nora Beloff was one of the most "visible" women journalists writing for the broadsheet press in her day. Always lively and opinionated - not to say prejudiced - whether reporting from foreign capitals or casting a scathing eye over the domestic political scene, she was not noted har judicious commentary or dispassionate judgment, once her ire had been aroused.

1311

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But, whether she was assailing the Labour Government's record over the trade union closed shop or berating postwar British Governments of either complexion over their attitude to the former Yugoslavia, she brought a certain heady immediacy to the business of reporting. Knowledgeable she might be, but she was never in any danger of becoming a mandarin nor did she wish to be.

Nora Beloff was not the first woman to work as a journalist in the parliamentary lobby. That distinction belongs to Baroness White, who as Eirene Jones went to work there for the Manchester Evening News in 1946. But almost 20 years

later Beloff did blaze her own trail by becoming the first woman political correspondent of a national newspaper. She held the post on The Observer from 1964 until her retirement in 1976.

Although she was inclined to regard that period as the apex of her career, her most valuable work had, in fact, been done earlier. She was a resourceful and courageous Paris correspondent for the same paper during the difficult years of the Algerian War in the 1950s and she also served with distinction in Washington, Moscow and Brussels - the last posting producing her first and best book, The General Says No (1963), a vivid account of

the original, abortive British nego-tiation to join the EEC of 1961-63.

From a cosmopolitan back-ground herself — she was the daughternoor extent of Land Palett the younger sister of Lord Beloff, later Gladstone Professor of Government and Public Administra-tion at Oxford — she possessed many of the attributes of the born foreign correspondent. Educated at King Alfred School and Lady Margaret Hall. Oxford, where she read history, she did not immediately think of journalism as a

After graduating from Oxford in 1940, she started off as a member of the Political Intelligence Department of the Foreign Office and this. **NORA BELOFF**

no doubt, gave her a head start over many of her subsequent rivals. From the Foreign Office, she joined first Reuters, where she was a reporter for the year 1945-46, and then served as Paris correspondent of The Economist before arriving at The Observer in the same year, 1948, that David Astor took up the editorship. For the next decade and a half she served successively in the major European capitals and in America. In addition to the difficulties of reporting the Algerian War from the Paris posting, she almost lost her life in America, when her car was in collision with a taxi in Washington. For a while she was in a critical condition in hospital. before emerging to re-enter the

journalistic fray.
It was Astor who appointed her political correspondent of The Observer 16 years after she had been taken on to the paper. It was in some ways an unenviable inheritance. The paper had never really found a replacement for Hugh Massingham, its star political columnist of the 1940s and 1950s - and, whatever Beloff's talents, she was not a writer in the same class as he was. It is also not necessarily an advantage for a political correspondent to possess strong and committed personal opinions; Beloff certainly held those and had no intention of hiding them. From the outset she allied herself

firmly with the "revisionist" wing of the Labour Party: even Harold Wilson, as Prime Minister, was said to examine her copy in order to find out what such Cabinet colleagues as Roy Jenkins and Anthony Crosland were up to.

But a price inevitably had to be paid for such overt partisanship. Relations between No 10 and The Observer became increasingly strained during the course of the 1964-70 Labour Government with the Prime Minister on one occasion writing a ten-page letter of protest to the paper's Editor detailing his complaints against its political coverage. No doubt, there were faults on both sides - but even Beloff's principal sources grew embarrassed by the intensity of her evangelical fervour, which was combined on occasion with a

quite startling indiscretion. Her latter years on The Observer were also clouded by an unwise High Court action brought against Private Eye for breach of copyright. which she lost. Still, Beloff could claim to have got some things right. She was among the first to spot the danger of "entryism" into the Labour Party — and the eventual, if belated, showdown over Militant fully vindicated her earlier

warnings.
Beloff's tenure did not, however, survive the paper's change of ownership and editorship in 1976

and her last years were spent specialising in what she saw as the wartime and postwar betrayal of Yugoslavia by the West. She wrote occasionally on this theme in The Daily Telegraph and it also provided the subject for her last book. Two's Flaved Legacy, which was published in Italy and the United States as well as in Britain in 1985. Fiercely pro-Serbian to the end, she maintained in it that Britain had been misled into supporting Tito's Partisans against Mihailovic's Cetniks, in spite of a paradoxical recognition of Tito's achievements as a bulwark against potential Soviet aggression in the Balkan

Other books she wrote included Freedom under Foot (1976), whose double entendre title expressed its intentions, a fierce attack on Michael Foot's support for the recognition of trade union rights in newspapers, including a closed shop for journalists, during his time as Employment Secretary. No Travel like Russian Travel (1979) was an examination of the difference between appearance and reality in experiencing the daily life of the Soviet Union.

After her retirement from The Observer Nora Beloff married, in 1977, Clifford Makins, a former sports editor of the paper. He predeceased her in 1990. She had no children.



MAJOR GEOFFREY BIDDLE

Major Geoffrey Biddle, MBE, GM, bomb disposal expert, died on February 3 aged 79. He was born on May 7, 1917.

GEOFF BIDDLE probably saved the life of Sir Edward Heath in 1975 when he defused an IRA bomb which had been wedged in a bag beneath a car outside the former Prime Minister's London home. The bomb was a new terrorist device, designed to go off when released from the pressure of the car.

Called to the scene in the early hours of a bitterly cold night, Biddle had to lie in the gutter and, working by the light of his torch, gently pull round the bag until it faced him — before he could start to dismantle the device. The car. moreover, was a Mini, which allowed him little space in which to work.

Judged even by the exacting standards of his craft, it involved a breathtaking blend of skill and courage - to which a grateful Edward Heath has since paid tribute. Biddle's ontv personut conoment at in incident was to complain about the coid. "The wind," he said, "was blowing up my

Biddle it was who, two years earlier, had defused the first car bomb in London, parked outside New Scotland Yard. Together with his old friend and colleague Major Don Henderson, he had helped to set up the Metropolitan Police Explosives Office at Cannon Row on leaving the Army in criminal investigation rather than terrorism, and Biddle was soon a familiar police wimess, providing scientific evidence at the Old Bailey.

ame tax

it was IRA activity in the 1970s, however, which raised his profile drawing praise from High Court judges and the tabloids as he and his small, elite team moved calmly from one crisis to another. He and a colleague answered

ANNOUNCEMENTS



five calls in one 48-hour period alone, early in 1974, although some of the bombs went off before they got there. The targets included Madame Tussaud's, the Earls Court Boat Show and a senior army

officer's home in Kensington. Biddle dismantled one device, in a loudly ticking cardboard box in Ealing, only just in time. The clock had only 30 seconds to go before triggering

the lethal mix inside - the kind of scenario that James Bond might have relished. As it was, the closest he came to serious injury was in 1975 when a parcel bomb sent by a filted lover to his ex-mistress blew up in Biddle's face as he was dealing with it, badly scorching his wrists and

eyebrows. Despite his hair-raising career, however, Geoffrey Wil-

liam Biddle had started out as a gents' outlitter. Born at Bromley, Kent, the son of a foreman builder, he left school to train at his local branch of Burton's. He was not more than 20 when they made him manager, the youngest Bur-ton's manager in the country. But then the war broke out.

Rejected for the front line because he wore glasses, Biddle was drafted into the Royal

TRUSTEE ACTS

Army Pay Corps. Within months he had successfully sought a transfer to the Royal Army Ordnance Corps (RAOC) where he qualified as an ammunition examiner.

A Warrant Officer Class One by the time the war ended, Geoffrey Biddle had found his metier. Rather than return to Burton's counters he accepted a commission as an ammunition technical officer (ATO) and embarked on a long-term military career. He travelled widely during the next 19 years, including post-ings in the Middle East, East Africa and Cyprus — where he was defusing bombs during the Eoka troubles.

He was never technically a policeman, but was known as a Metropolitan Police Staff Officer. Nevertheless, he took it as a great compliment when a senior police officer re-marked thet "the Met" looked on him as one of their own.

Geoffrey Biddle, who retired for the second time in 1981, was loaded with honours, including being named as Man of the Year in 1976 and City of London. But when he went to the Palace to receive his MBE he had to enter through a side gate to avoid photographers because of the sensitive nature of his work.

Yet he never assumed the mantle of a hero. A slim, greyhaired, mild-mannered man, he rarely lost his temper or raised his voice. Nor did he lose the personal standards of a soldier. He would never have dreamt of going out, even after he retired, without a collar and tie, polished shoes

and neatly pressed trousers. He was only 22 when he married his wife, Lilian. "Geordie" who had moved south to work in a Bromley hotel. They met through their shared love of ballroom dancing and their idea of a treat when they were young was to foxtrot to Joe Loss and his band at the Hammersmith Palais.

In his retirement they played bowls together at their local club, of which he was to become secretary and then president. He also retained his links with the Army and the police, and attended a 1984 function held to commemorate the thirtieth anniversary of the Explosives Office - now part of SOI3, the Anti-Terrorist Branch.

His wife died in 1987 and Geoff Biddle, who was increasingly crippled by rheumatoid arthritis, moved into a nursing home over a year ago. He is survived by a daughter

JOHN BAKER

John Baker, composer of music for radio and television programmes, died of cancer on February 7 aged 59. He was born at Leigh-on-Sea on October 12, 1937.

IN THE heyday of Radiophonic Workshop, the BBC's electronic music studios in Maida Vale, three composers were predominant David Cain, Delia Derbyshire and John Baker. Before synthesizers and multitrack tape recorders became common, Baker used everyday sounds as his "instruments" — the wanging of a ruler, the noise made by blowing across the

top of a bottle or the plop of a cork being pulled. He changed their pitch on tape, edited the sounds together Isometimes measuring notes inexactly to introduce a syncopated feeling) and used, perhaps, three tape recorders running simultaneously side by side to put together the final composition.

In the official history of the Workshop, there are referniques" in "realising" electronic music. They were used for many years after he had left.

John Baker was a descendant of a successful family of firework manufacturers in the East End of London, After graduating at the Royal Academy of Music he joined the BBC in 1960. He worked first

as a studio manager, a job which, in those times, could entail playing discs on the Light Programme's House-wives' Choice one day and editing foreign correspon-dents' dispatches on 78 rpm records for Radio Newsreel

the next. Three years later, Baker moved to the Radiophonic Workshop, which was then in the vanguard of electronic music work. While there, he composed the signature tunes of many BBC radio and television shows, including that of the Radio Four current affairs programme PM, the jingle for the listeners' letters slot on Woman's Hour and the theme of BBC English by Radio on the World Service.

Producers commissioning his work used to see him at the Maida Vale studios to give him an idea of what they wanted. He merely listed each of the adjectives they used to describe their programmes words he then had by him when he came to work on their music. As with BBC English by Radio, he often embodied gramme's title into the pieces

he composed. Baker provided incidental music and special effects for many plays, one of them a Third Programme production in 1969 of Ibsen's When We Dead Awaken, starring Ralph Richardson. One of the more unusual requests made to him

came from a man from the

Royal Shakespeare Company. who wanted a sonata composed from the sound of his kneecap being tapped. "You record your knee-cap and I'll do my best" Baker told the man. He never heard from

him again. The stress of being continuously inventive and of balancing, say, several commissions in his head at one time, coupled with the painstaking process of assembling the music, all took its toll of Baker's health. In addition, he worked hard away from the BBC, providing effects for many TV commercials and writing a good deal of mood music, some of which was used in the Beatles film, Help!

John Baker was a resourceful and innovative jazz pianist in the Andre Previn/Dudley Moore mould, aithough he largely confined his playing to his native Southend-on-Sea. He composed and orchestrated a jazz Mass for a local

Ill-health forced him to part company from the BBC in 1974 and he never really his departure. A shy, sensitive and courteous man, he was blessed with a heightened sense of the ridiculous, which helped him to cope with illness. In his latter years, he liked nothing better than to spend his days (and nights) listening to his favourite programmes on Radio Three.

He was unmarried



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MR WILSON IS LABOUR'S **NEW LEADER** PROM OUR POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

Mr. Harold Wilson, who is 46, last night Mr. Haroid Wilson, who is 46, last right became Leader of the Labour Party in succession to the late Hugh Gaitskell. In this week's accord ballot he had a majority of 41 votes over Mr. George Brown, the acting leader, and only two of the 249 Labour M.Ps. who were eligible abstained from voting....

After the meeting of the parliamentary party had dispersed there continued to be no positive assurance that Mr. Brown intended positive assurance that Mr. Brown intended to keep his post as deputy leader of the party under Mr. Wilson. When the question was specifically put to Mr. Wilson at his press conference in Transport House last night he elusively said that the parliamentary party meeting had been private and he could not talk about it.

Late last night, after a long discussion between Mr. Wilson and Mr. Brown at Transport House, some Labour leaders confidently forecast that Mr. Brown will in the end agree to serve as deputy leader. But no fficial statement was forthcoming. It later became known that the declaration

of the result was followed by a few moments of drama. As Mr. Wilson rose to acknowledge his election Mr. Brown is said to have waved

ON THIS DAY February 15, 1963

George Brown (1914-85) had been deputy leader to Hugh Gaitskell since 1960 and served as such under Harold life peer.

Wilson until 1970 when he was created a him down and asked that he should be allowed to explain his position. In effect he said he wanted time to consider his position as deputy leader. He asked the meeting to sympathize with his motives and give him an opportunity to consult with the new leader on the man opportunity to consult with the new leader on

olicy and other matters before he declared is intentions in the new situation. According to Labour M.P.s Mr. Brown

made a very dignified figure as he faced the meeting calmiy and sturdily. He is said to have shown no signs of emotion, although the rank and file know that he is an engagingly

There then seems to have been a warm tribute from Mr. Wilson to Mr. Brown's dynamic qualities as a party leader (he is chairman of the organization sub-committee. which makes him a force in the constituency

parties) and as a parliamentary speaker...

Mr. Wilson added that the election had been completed without any rankling or bitterness, and with the leadership of the party united.

Some commentators would try to read into the result of the ballot that approval had been given to a particular mandate or section or group or policy. But it was clear that the votes cast were those of the whole parry. He regarded himself as elected not by 144 votes but by the parry as a whole. He accepted his to serve the whole party in Parliament

duty to serve the whole party in Parliament and in the country. He added that three things had been decided. First there was a mandate to maintain the unity of the party that Hugh Gaitskell had handed on three weeks ago. The second mandate was to continue those policies vorked out under Mr. Gaitskell's leadershir The third ("there can be no doubt about this" was to lead Labour to victory in the coming election. With the help of the whole party in Parliament and the country that, said Mr. Wilson, was what he proposed to do . . .

مِكذا من الامل

NEWS &

Birth control for 11-year-olds

E Children as young as 11 should be offered free condoms and advice on sex to reduce Britain's high rate of teenage pregnancies, a key government advisory body says.

In the most authoritative review of research on sex among teenagers, the NHS Centre for Reviews and Dissemination says school-based sex education and by clinics providing contraceptives are the best way to stop teenage pregnancies Page 1

The richest man in the world

Bill Gates, 41, the American computer entrepreneur, last year used a stampeding bull market to double his fortune to \$29 billion (£18 billion), setting him well on the road to becoming the world's greatest human wealth accumulator ___ Pages I, 23

Nazi victim

A British woman living near Cologne died after being attacked by neo-fascists angered by a "Nazis Out" sticker on her rucksack, a German court heard Page 3

Lost chapel found

Archaeologists believe that they may have found the lost royal chapel of St Michael in Stirling

Tests for teachers

Student teachers will have to demonstrate their own grasp of grammar and spelling under plans by Gillian Shephard ... Page 8

Wildlife on the Pembrokeshire coast is still feeling the impact a year after the Sea Empress ran ..., Page 10

All in the mind

Wreck's legacy

The power of the imagination can distort people's perception of the

Aldine strike

American Airlines is on the verge of the most serious airline strike in aviation history which might leave hundreds of thousands of passengers stranded....

Yeltsin ailing

Boris Yeltsin is unable to walk unaided for more than a few yards and is showing signs of Parkinson's disease...

Clinton peace call

President Clinton has called on Israel and Syria to resume talks on the Golan Heights, security and

Lebanoo .. Beijing on edge China's Foreign Minister called for calm as the stand-off over a

defecting senior North Korean continued in Beijing...... Page 17 Mayor under scrutiny

Jean Tiberi, the Mayor of Paris, faces imminent investigation on past, an American psychologist suspicion of corruption, according ...Page II to a magazine

WI backs village hall strippers

grounds but WI members said although they might not attend the shows, they were not staid marmalade-makers Page 1 THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,404

■ Strippers and blue comedians will be welcome in the village

hall at Shotley in Suffolk, thanks to support from the Women's

Institue. The local vicar, the Rev Robin Spittle, objected on moral

15 11 98 Peter Brooke NATIUTRIE NOTITE Common weeds Cowslip Thistle Marsh mallow (Dorrella antidevolutionis) (Blandus majorus) (Hoggus censurus)

Mortgages: The Halifax and other leading mortgage lend-

ers have started a new round

of the mortgage price war, in

some cases cutting the price

of fixed rate loans by more

than I per cent Page 27

Banking: More than 80,000

staff of Lloyds TSB are in line

for bonus and salary in-

creases worth an average of

Markets: The FT-SE 100 rose

13.9 points to close at 4341.0.

£1,000 each...

COLUMNS ...

Simon Jenidne: As I turned a corner in Cheshire I faced an astonishing sight - an English foxhunt at full trot and in full regalia Page 22 Roger Scrutor: A priest can face no unhappier situation

than ministering to a dying congregation...... Page 22 Michael Beloff: Alleged murder is as serious a libel as can

be envisaged Page 22

LETTERS

EU arms code; devolution: land gifts; science and arts; Calcutta book fire: Mr and Mrs Beeton Page 23

Two wronge: Newspapers

seeking to counter injustice have their place in the press gallery, not as advocates for the prosecution Page 23 Without a crew: The next generation of movie-makers are already crashing through the

Micro, micro, on the welk in earlier centuries there was probably not enough wealth for anyone to be compared with Bill Gates.......Page 23

door...

er journalist ...

Sterling fell from 97.8 to 97.7 after a fall from \$1.6222 to \$1.6213 and from DM2.7367 Nora Beloff, former Observto DM2.7348 Page 30

... Page 23

Rugby union: If the tight forwards absorb Ireland's Initial onslaught, England are as well equipped as anyone to win in Dublin ____ Page 52

New Zealand wickets for 229 after putting them into but on the opening day of the final Pootbell: West Ham signed John Hartson, the Wales and, Arsenal striker, for a club record £5 million Page 52.

Classic car theft; BMW 525 touring; tomorrow's traffic

Kirl in the bush: Richard Morrison says the year's most bizarre musical event may be Dame Kiri Te Kanawa's outdoor concert in the outback Page 21 Cricket: England took five Cliff in town: Panned by the critics but adored by

the fans, Chiff Richard's musical Thathcliff has reached London ... Page 21 Posting negat The assor-ishing Telsuya Kumakara stars in the Royal Ballet's staging of Push Comes to Shove Page 20

Olivier Awards: Amazeurs sit in judgmentPage 20

Mia and me: Woody Allen

__Page 8 hits back Royal restoration: Windsor Castle ____Page 27 Food & drink Pages 47-49

Weekend

The small time: Minor league glory...... Pages 1, 2



Property: Converting a hank into a home... Page 8 Home life: Older siblings can be friends Page II

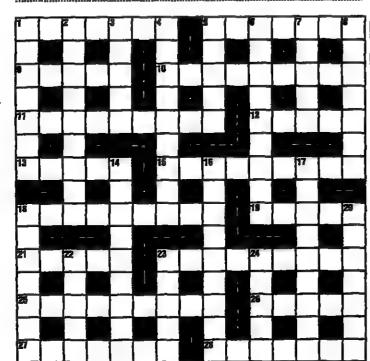
Page 4



PeoplePage 3
TV 4 radio Pages 23-51
FoodPages 4-6
BooksPages 7-12
What's on Pages 13-21

A E20 book token will be awarded to the senders of the first five correct solutions opened near Thursday. Entries should be addressed to: The Times, Saturday Crossword Competition, PO Box 486, Virginia Street. London El 9DD. The names of the winners and the solution will be published next Saturday.

Name/Address



- and fury (7).
- 5 Too close to front of ship (7). 9 A devil or two (5).
- 10 Chapter introducing Imaginary village university (9). 11 Religiously perform lines, some
- in translation (9).
- 12 This could make suit lit to a T (5). 13 Comfortable bome with a girl (5). 15 Cockney isn't pursued outside,
- being innocent (9). 18 Potrot takes on an arduous sort of
- 19 As body would, after one is this?
- 21 Animal making noise that's not so loud (5).
- 23 Coach horse involved in accident almost (9).
- 25 Sweet on girl, but one day he's deceived (5.4).
- 26 Appeal to small boy? It often doesn't (5).
- 27 Abandon speaking course (7). 28 Composer who made his mark? (7)_

Solution to Puzzle No 20,398

Plant is performing satisfactorily 23 Look into diminution in influence 24 Lost in transit? (2,3). Solution to Puzzle No 20,403

pool (9)

rope (7).

PIAL PPSALA NIPPING

1 One who essayed to have another

child? (?).

thyat (5).

three get sent up (9).

6 Big. sturdy harness (9). 7 Avoid Kansas City (5).

5 A 27 to attack with energy (5).

8 Exploited partnership in full (7).

14 Heartless spat in beer, an artis-

17 Heavy sheet physicist put into

In road across foreshore, lay out

Again cut up in this final contest

tically watery concection (9).

16 Steel can't break, they feel (9).

LAST WEEK'S WINNERS: A Alman. Blackpool. Lancashire; N Edward, Carnoustie Angus: P Maclean, Potten End. Berkhamstead, Hertfordshire; G Hughes, Milford-on Sea, Hampshire; A Meekings, Enfleid, Middleser.

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Sun rises: 7 15 277 Sun setti: 5 15 pm Moon dear ACCUS NO. 202 an

London 5.16 pm to 7.13 am Bristot 5.25 pm to 7.13 am Edinborgh 5.17 pm to 7.35 am Manchester 5.19 pm to 7.35 am Pensance 5.40 pm to 7.31 am 2 Ordered queries about Canone's gat (9). 3 Shaft of light from single ame-TOMORROW Sun sett: 5 18 pm Stan rises: 7.13 am Moon sets Moon rises 4 Rightness of conviction as first 3.00 att Full indices Pebruary 22

17.1G 18.17 23.31 18.22 17.46 10.45 12.12 11.50 74 12.19 27.13 17.22 15.08 08 39 04 47 33 01 05 24 11 08 1029 4.5

MEMSPAPERS SUPPORT RECYCLING

General: England and Wales will have a largety dry day with sunny spells. Rain may reach western tringes by midnight. Temperatures near normal siter early trost, but winds

will increase in the west later, Wintry showers over northern Scot-land will die out to leave most parte, and Northern Ireland, with sunny spells. The Province will see rain in the evening. Temperatures may be on the cold side after overnight frost.

☐ London, SE England, E Angi Centrel S England, E Midlande, E England, W Midlande, Central N England: dry and bright with sunny spells, more cloudy later. Wind west moderate backing south west and increasing fresh. Max 9C (48F).

☐ Channel Isles, SW England, S Wales, N Wales, Lake District, Isle of Man, SW Scotland, Glasgow:

leter by midnight. Wind west light leter by midnight. Wind west ugint backing south increasing fresh or strong. Max 8C (46F).

I NW England, NE England, Borders, Edinburgh & Dundee, Aberdeen, Moray Firth: dry and bright with sunny spells, cloudier later. Wind west moderate becoming south increasing fresh later Mits 7C (45F).

Increasing fresh later. Max 7C (45F).

Central Highlands, NE Scotland, Argyll, NW Scotland, Orthography wintry showers dying out cloudy later.
Wind west backing south moderate or fresh, light for a time. Mex 6C (43F).

Shetland: wintry showers, sunny or clear spells later. Wind mostly light and varieble. Mex 4C (39F).

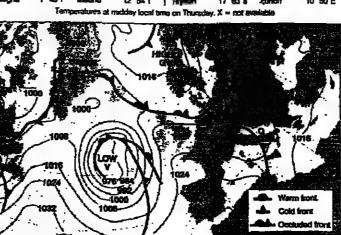
☐ N tretainds suriny kritervals, then cloudy, rain in evening. Wind west light becoming south increasing strong or gails. Max 7C (45F).
☐ Outlooks very windy in most parts, with showers or longer periods of rain.

with showers or longer periods of rain.

sunny start, then cloudy, some rain 0.06 0.01

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Monday O Tuesday U Wiednesday Thursday

WORKING WEEK

Beauty is skin deep for Devro's chief PAGE 29



BUSINESS

Graham Searjeant gives an election health warning PAGE 31



SPORT

England look to forward planning in Dublin summit **PAGES 46-52**

THE HIDDEN **ASSETS** de beers

PAGE 29

BUSINESS EDITOR Lindsay Cook

SATURDAY FEBRUARY 15 1997

Halifax heats up mortgage price war

By CAROLINE MERRELL

THE Halifax Building Society and other big mortgage lenders have begun a new round of the mortgage price war, in some cases cutting fixed rate loans by more than I per cent.

The rate cuts are ma

possible by the refusal of Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, to bow to pressure from the Bank of England to increase the base rate. The Halifax, the UK's biggest mortgage lender, is now offering five-year loans with rates starting at 7.65 per cent, down from 8.45 per cent. Someone taleing a £60,000 loan today will pay £425.81 a month, down from £454.85. About 15 per cent of the 2.5 million Halifax borrowers are on

Gary Marsh, for the Halffax, said: "Fixed rates are set by the level of rates in the money markets. It is an indication that the market thinks that interest rates are not going to rise by as much as they thought they were." Other Halifax fixed rates include a three-year fix at 6.9 per cent, and two years at 6.45 per cent.

The Alliance & Leicester, the Chelsea and Abbey National are also cutting rates on fixed-rate loons. The A&L is now offering a five-year, fix of 7.74 per cent, and the Chelsea is of fering a 7.49 peneent loan. Abbey National is offering Sue Concumon, busine

two years at 6.85 per cent. development director of Sharelink, to run the share dealing subsidiary that will handle sales from eight million prospective Halifan shareholders Halifan is replacing Sharelink, which has run its dealing service.

Tokyo close Yen 124.65

1343.65 (5341.85)

Williams fall

Shares in Williams Holdings

fell more than 10 per cent after

the City concluded it had over-aid with its £1.3 billion offer

for Chubb. The fall resulted in

Williams's demotion from the

FT-SE 100 index, where it will

be replaced by Centrica, the

demerged supply arm of Brit-ish Gas. Page 28

Martin Sorrell has already enjoyed some £2.9 million in free shares under the first tranche of his incentive scheme

Sorrell heading for £28m bonus jackpot

returns profits ahead of forecasts on Wednesday.

Mr Sorrell, who has already enjoyed some £2.9 million in free shares under the first tranche of his lucrative incentive scheme, is due to receive the second tranche, worth £2.7 million, on March 4 if the shares remain above 230p. WPP's shares advanced 8'2p yesterday, to 252'2p, just below the third trigger point of 265p. A further stake will be released if they stay above this threshold for 60 trading days. The City is expecting WPP to

resorn profits of £150 million

for 1996, up from fli4 million,

these forecasts, and if the bull market continues its run, anasoon pass 265p and hit 304p within 12 months, triggering the remaining share release.

A share surge is made all the more likely by recent growth in the sector. At a rating of 21 times, WPP's shares are some way behind Abbot Mead Vickers, the market leader, whose shares trade on a ratio of 40 times. On the same rating WPP's shares would be worth 363p.

Mr Sorrell's incentive scheme was drawn up two years ago when the company was recovering from nearcollapse after the advertising recession of the early Nineties.

MARTIN SORRELL, chief and lift earnings per share 38 His reforms have since won estimative of WPP, could be per cent, to 12.5p. If it outstrips him a strong City following. him a strong City following, and few analysts begrudge him the free shares. Lorna said: "When you look at what has happened to the company's market value since the scheme started, you can see that the guy has delivered." WPP is still paying off the debts taken out when Mr

Sorrell sealed a contract to buy Ogilvie, the US-based advertising giant, in 1988. While this turned WPP into the largest advertising company in the world, it left it with debts that almost crushed the company during the recession.

Some of WPPs followers have not forgiven Mr Sorrell for the collapse, which in 1990 prompted its shares to plunge from 609p to 42p. One said: "We are looking at the same man who gave the same message in the 1980s, and he pany looks back on its feet now, but losing three quarters of your investment over a few days is not something you

forget quickly."

WPP is expected to have reduced its debt pile from £215 million to £150 million, and to have increased its use of freelances so that it can quickly downsize if the market suffers another downturn.

The free shares are being released from a holding taken out by WPP when the shares were at 115p. The company says that while Mr Sorrell will make millions, the costs to shareholders will be minimal.

Payout for staff as Lloyds leaps 52%

BY ROBERT MILLER HANKING CORRESPONDENT

MORE than 80,000 staff of Lloyds TSB are in line for bonus and salary increases each after the banking group yesterday unveiled a 52 per cent jump in pre-tax profits, to E2.6 billion.

Charities will also benefit from the £13 million transferred from the record profit figures to the Lloyds TSB Foundation. That money will

be distributed this year. Starting the UK bank reporting season, Lloyds TSB, which is raising its final dividend, due on May 1, by 20 per cent to 9p, to take the annual payout to 13.2p, said that it had set aside £100 million for the staff profit-sharing scheme. Each qualifying member will receive 10 per cent of basic salary as a bonus, and there will be a 5 per cent pay rise.

Under the staff deal, the company is to integrate the various staff pension schemes in the expanded retail person-al financial services group and make them non-contributory. Bifu, the finance union, wel-

comed the 30 per cent increase in the staff bonus scheme, but said that up to 10,000 more jobs were still at risk as integration of Lloyds and TSB continued. Bifu called for a guarantee of no compulsory redundancies and for customers, local communities and the union to be consulted over proposals to close branches. Sir Brian Pitrana, chairman

of Lioyos 156, Which sav earnings per share rise to 31.2p, against 19.2p in 1995, said: "Job security comes from winning. If you are a loser, then you lose a lot of jobs." Shares in Lloyds TSB closed l 12p up, at 503 2p, last night .

Stock Market, page 30 Tempus, page 30

WEEKEND

NEWSPAPER OF THE



Anne Ashworth on the value of mutuality

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FISE 100 Sound Teles London shares FISE AN Admin 2 211C22 South Teles London Shares New York close at record

By JANET BUSH, ECONOMICS EDITOR

LONDON shares achieved a record closing high in celebra-tion of this week's surge beyond 7,000 by the Dow Jones industrial average on Wall Street.

The FT-SE 100 index closed 13.9 points higher at 4,341.0, but this was below the day's hest levels. The Dow took a breather after its recordbreaking run over the past three sessions, which on Thursday took it above the 7,000 level for the first time. At the London close, the Dow stood around ten points

tious after such speetly gains this week. Despite the rather subdued mood on Wall Street yesterday, the economic news from

lower as investors turned cau-

America was encouraging. US Treasury bonds moved higher on publication of tigures showing that industrial production was flat and that wholesale prices had fallen 0.3

per cent in January, the first

monthly decline for more than

The bond market took these two items of news as evidence that the US economy's rate of growth may be slowing and that inflationary pressures are likely to remain subdued. This should mean that the need for higher American interest rates is limited or at least that there is no great urgency for the US Federal Reserve to tighten monetary policy.

Pearson plans to interview Mayer

By ERIC REGULY

PEARSON, the media and entertainment group, plans to interview Peter Mayer, the former chief executive of Penguin, and dozens of current and former employees as part of its investigation into the book publisher's improper

accounting in America.
Insiders said that Mr Mayer was "devastated" by Pearson's claims that one of his former employees, a book-keeper who worked in Penguin's accounts office in New Jersey, had extended unauthorised discounts to book retailers since 1991 in exchange for prompt payment. The discounts are to be written off by Pearson as had debts.

The company is to take a £100 million charge to cover the bad debt, the costs of the investigation and any rebates demanded by retailers that were not offered discounts. Pearson said it has not been able to establish a motive for the unauthorised discounts. but would not rule out fraud.

Mr Mayer was travelling and could not be reached for

Mr Mayer became Pen guin's chief executive in 1978 and resigned last year. He now runs a small New York book publisher called Overlook Press, which he started in 1971.

comment. Pearson emphasised that he had no know-ledge of the improper accounting, which was "smothered" in a mountain of transactions and different ac-

New all-weather holiday village will create 900 jobs

Rank to challenge Center Parcs

BY SAHAH CUNNINGHAM

THE battle for the hearts and wallets of Britain's less adventurous holidaymakers intensified yesterday as Rank Group confirmed plans to open an all-weather holiday village in Cumbria in May. It will be the first serious rival to Center Parcs,

owned by Scottish & Newcastle. Center Parcs is seeking to stave off the competition by refurbishing its Sherwood Forest holiday village, which is ten years old and was the first of its three in Britain to be built. Plans are also on the drawing

Center Parcs has proved to be a hit in the UK, especially with young families, but tough trading conditions on the Continent last year led to a £5 million fall in operating profit at the halfway stage. Bookings this year are well ahead of last year, a spokeswoman said. She said anyone hoping to spend next Christmas or New Year at a Center Parc would be disappointed — they are fully booked. Rank said its £100 million Oasis Forest

Holiday Village in Cumbria would create

board to refurbish the Center Pare at almost 900 jobs. The village is in 400 acres of mature woodland. Accommodation will be in Scandinavian-style wooden lodges. The investment will create 700 full-time and a 180 part-time positions.

Like Center Pares, Casis will feature a range of leisure facilities, including a country club, health spa and indoor village centre with restaurants, shops and "sub-tropical world of water".

James Whittell, managing director of Oasis, said demand had exceeded expectations since a marketing campaign was

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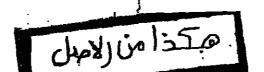
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Renault in warning

Renault, the French carmaker, has said that its 1996 operating loss will be considerably more than market expectations.

over loss

Analysts had pencilled in an operating loss of Frl.3 billion to Frl.6 billion after erosion of margins by a price war among carmakers fighting to boost their share of Europe's slow-growing market

French car sales fell 34 per cent in January, showing the market's underlying weakness after two years of state support through incentives for buyers of new vehicles. These ended in the autumn.

Cash call

Electrophoretics International, the biotechnology research company, is raising [4.] million via an underwritten placing and open offer of one new share for every six held at 40p each to fund development and marketing of technology that detects diseases with blood tests. For 1996, pre-tax losses were £1.59 million, in line with budget, against 1995's £1.39 million loss. The shares rose 5p to 48 2 p.

Prowting deal

Prowting has paid £11.6 million for Magnus Homes, a housebuilder in the West Country and the Midlands. Magnus Holdings made a pre-tax profit of £901,000 last year. The company has net assets of £6.4 million and accrued tax losses of £27 million.

Inchcape idea

Incheape, the car dealer-ship group, and NWS Bank are to set up a company offering car loans and other financial services at Inchcape dealerships. The car company will provide car loans, insurance and warranties, but hopes later to offer other services.

Fieldens 'loss'

Fieldens, the AlM-listed farm machinery supplier, expects a "small loss" for its first half, to December 31. It blamed tough trading on dry weather, BSE and the strong pound, which cut sales and profits for the first time in its history. The shares fell 13p, to 52½p.

Sykes warmer

Shares in Andrews Sykes rose 712p, to 50712p, as the portable heating and air conditioning group said it expected 1996 pre-tax profits to be 6 to 8 per cent above market expectations. Preliminary results are due in late April.



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Stepping up: Roger Carr, left, chief executive of Williams, with Sir Nigel Rudd, the chairman, yesterday after their £1.3 billion offer for Chubb

Williams £1.3bn Chubb bid condemned as too high

SHARES in Williams Holdings fell more than 10 per cent yesterday as the City concluded that the company had overpaid with its £1.3 billion

offer for Chubb Security.
The shares closed at 300½ p. down 372p, valuing the company's cash and shares offer at 435p. Chubb shares closed up 4½p, at 424½p.
The decline in Williams's

share price resulted in demo-tion from the FT-SE 100. where it will be replaced by Centrica, the demerged supply arm of British Gas. But Wil-

day that it was "cautious" about

this year's trading prospects

but expected to make good

Andrew Thomas, the chair-

man, revealed that trading

was ahead in the first four

months of this year in core

food and drink operations at

The vital Christmas period,

during which the company

generates as much as 20 per

progress throughout 1997.

its 2,360 pubs.

liams will return to the FT-SE if the Chubb deal, which creates a £3 billion company, is finalised Analysts were critical of the

price, which equates to 21 times historic earnings, although most agreed that the two companies would make a good fit. In December 1991 Williams made a £760 million bid for Racal before Chubb was demerged

Sir Nigel Rudd, chairman of Williams, said that the acquisition would cause "modest"

improved to give an 8.5 per

cent increase in food and

drink sales per outlet. Shares

in the company rose 7½p, to

the year, food sales increased

11.2 per cent per outlet, while

Over the first four months of

Greenalls 'cautious'

on trading prospects

By Alasdair Murray

GREENALLS GROUP, the re- cent of its full-year turnover,

il pub company, said yester- started slowly but rapidly

but would enhance earnings in subsequent years. Williams is seeking a new five-year £1 billion credit facility to help to finance the purchase.

The deal combines Williams's own security product companies. Yale and Kidder, with Chubb to create a company with sales of £2.7 billion and a global reach. Rumours that another bid-

der might enter the fray continued, with the market suggesting that deep-pocketed security companies such as US-based Tyco International could still be interested by Chubb. But most felt that Williams's price would scare off any rivals

Williams downplayed worries that competition authorities may try to block the deal. It said it would have to negotiate with the Office of Fair Trading but analysts expect the takeover to be cleared as long as some minor disposals are made.

Williams is aiming for cost savings of £26 million over the next two years, although it did not reveal the likely level of job

cuts in the 34,000-strong com-bined workforce. The company hopes to improve profits at Chubb by £14 million, while reorganisation costs are ex-

pected to be £30 million. Williams also forecast that full-year profits for 1996 would show a rise of 11 per cent, to £243 million. The total dividend is expected to rise 5.6 per cent, to 15.05p. The company is offering two Williams shares and 704.12p in cash for every three Chubb shares.

Grosvenor set to grow

BY ALASDAIR MURRAY

GROSVENOR INNS is selling part of its estate to concentrate on expanding its Slug and Lettuce chain.

Tim Thwaites, chairman, said the pub group had agreed to sell its Bar Central brand to Oueens Ice, a newly created leisure company, for £2 million. The three barrestaurants generated a profit of £250,000 last year and had a book value of £2.6 million.

Cedardata

drinks sales rose 3.8 per cent. At De Vere hotels, room Grosvenor is also paying yield increased 15 per cent, Inntrepreneur Pub Company and 9 per cent on a like-for-like £500,000 to take over five lossmaking pubs and is selling the Old Windmill pub for

Mr Thwaites said the company had made the sales to before tax to £1.1 million. free capital for investment in the 15-strong Slug and Lettuce brand. He added that Grosvenor intended to spend about £3 million this year on expansion with the aim of opening 20 new sites in the next two

Grosvenor will also consider selling more of its 47 pubs including the Hedgehog and Hogshead chain - to raise further development funds. The disposals came as Grosvenor unveiled a 25 per cent increase in half-year profits Turnover grew 36 per cent to Ell.8 million.

Sales at the Slug and Lettuce chain grew 43 per cent and profits 27 per cent. Sales at the original nine houses, acquired in 1992, were up 22 per cent and profits up 20 per cent.

The interim dividend is increased 10 per cent to 3.025p. payable on March 27. Shares in Grosvenor closed down 175p at 206p.

Extortion threat sees Arnotts suspended

SHARES in Amous, Anstralia's largest biscuit maker, were suspended from trading on the Australian Stock Exchange yesterday after a bizarre extortion threat forced the company to recall all its products from supermarket shelves for fear they had been poisoned. Arnotts, which has a 65 per cent share of the Australian biscuit market, said the cost of the recall, the biggest ever in Australia, could run into millions of dollars. Chris Roberts, managing director, said: "Clearly this is a very bad day for Arnotts, a very bad day for the Australian food industry and a very bad day for the community of Australia.

Hospitals were put on immediate red alert after letters containing poisoned biscuits were sent to six addresses in New South Wales and Queensland. Public health authorities warned that the poison in one biscuit would be enough to kill a small child. Police said the letters said that packets of contaminated biscuits would appear on supermarket shelves from next week if certain demands were not met.

Mine talks collapse

TALKS between RTZ-CRA, the Anglo-Australian mining company, and aboriginal groups over development of the massive Century zinc mine in the state of Queensland collapsed after the deadline for agreement passed. Negotia-tions will now shift to the federal native title tribunal where a binding agreement can take up to six months. Rick Farley, the lead negotiator for the 12 aboriginal groups, said that RTZ-CRA and the Queensland government have withdrawn a A\$60 million (£28.5 million) jobs and compensation package that was offered during the talks.

BR sells Opal to Atkins

WS Atkins, the technology consultant, has bought Opal Engineering from the British Railways Board for an undisclosed price. Opal's main customer is Railtrack, for which it carries out reviews and technical audits of signalling schemes. Opal employs about 170 people and had turnover last year of £11.9 million. It will become part of WS Atkins Rail, whose activities include design and maintenance, overhead power systems, and safety and environmental assessments. Michael Jeffries, Atkins's chief executive, said there were covering the develop Opal's husiness overseas. there were opportunities to develop Opel's business overseas.

Vitec buys Anton-Bauer

VITEC, the engineering group, is paying \$22 million in cash for Anton-Bauer of Connecticut, a leading manufacturer of microprocessor battery systems. Vitec already distributes Anton-Bauer's broadcast and professional video equipment products in the UK. Anton-Bauer, which is being sold by its two founders, made a pre-tax profit of \$36,000 last year. although before interest and owner's participation it made \$2.5 million. At December 31 the company had not assets of \$6.1 million. Makolm Baggott, Vitec chief executive, said he expected the acquisition to improve earnings this year.

Capitol to buy SIS

CAPITOL GROUP, the surveillance and investigation comparty, has agreed to pay up to £2.87 million for Specialised investigation Services, a Manchester firm that checks on in-surance claimants. SIS had turnover last year of £2.8 million and lost £43,000 after paying its directors £361,000. Stephen Hayes, SIS founder and a former policeman, remains managing director on a one-year contract. Capitol is paying £1 million in cash and issuing the yendors with 589,970 new shares, valued at 169's p. The balance of £870,000 depends on SIS profits of at least £420,000 in the year to January 1998.

Birse resurrects payout

BIRSE GROUP, the construction and plant hire group, is resuming dividend payments after lifting pre-tax profits to £1.2 million, from £300,000, in the half year to October 31. Earnings were 0.5p a share, compared with 0.1p previously. The interim dividend of 0.2p a share is payable on May 2. The company said that net debt was reduced to £4.9 million, from £7.1 million, belped by receipts of £6.8 million from

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shares plummet By OLIVER AUGUST CEDARDATA, the computer

software company, lost more than half its market value yesterday when it gave warning of an expected drop in profits for the year to March Results will be considerably

below market expectations because a number of contracts have been delayed, particularly in the public sector. Pricing had become increasingly competitive in the health sector. the company said. The company told the Stock Exchange that it will be

taking steps to reduce over-heads to a sustainable level. consistent with providing an acceptable quality of service. It blamed some of the delays on the impact of the Government's Private Finance The share price ended the

day at 123 2p. down 139p.

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Brown & **Jackson** rues draw BY SARAH CUNNINGHAM

BROWN & JACKSON, the Poundstretcher retailer, yes-terday blamed the new midweek lottery for the latest setback in its slow recovery. Christo Wiese, chairman, said that sales in the six weeks to February 8 were up 10 per

cent on last year. "Sales were, however, adversely affected by the double rollover week of the National Lottery and the start of the midweek draw," he said. Pre-tax profit rose 27 per cent, to E5.74 million, in the half year to December 31, and like for like sales grew by I per cent. However, Mr Wiese s "Due to the seasonality of the business, losses are normally incurred in the last six months of the financial year." Some uncertainty remained because of tough conditions in Pound-

stretcher's sector, he said. There is again no interim

THE SUNDAY TIMES Co-op at the crossroads

Traditionally the Co-ops are run along principles enshrined in more than 150 years of trading. But now they face a challenge to their co-operative values ... 9

Business — The Sunday

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A WORKING WEEK FOR: GRAEME ALEXANDER

Beauty is skin deep for Devro's chief

Sausage skins may not fire your imagination,

but Sarah Cunningham meets a man

6 I feel like

other people

go to offices,

and I go to

airports 9

who is very much wrapped up in them

ks cullapse *

onday \(\) ours for all manner of things; for fighting for Queen and country, writing pop songs, or Thursday even putting in years of service as a lollipop lady. But Graeme Alexander must be the first person to receive a gong for making enough sausage skins to go to the Moon and back.

Alexander, the chief executive of Devro. the Scottish-based sausage skin company that was floated in 1993, was appointed OBE in the last New Year's Honours List. He was as surprised as anyone when he was first notified, in November.

"It so happened that I was out in Australia at the time and I had been out on the town with some of the guys that Opal to the run our operation there, "he recalls. "I got back to the hotel at about two in the morning and found a note stuck to my door saying 'please ring your wife urgently'. Underneath it said 'not bad news' so I wasn't too worried:

"I rang up and she said where have you been? Anyway, she then said there was a letter from 10 Downing Street saying that I'd been recommended for an OBE. I was so surprised I nearly fell out off my chair." The recommendation was for "services to

the food industry". He says he is not sure who put his name forward, but suspects it was the Scottish Office. He also thinks it has a great deal to do with his proudest achievement at Devro, which was the acquisition of its much larger American rival, Teepak. It is only as a result of buying Teepak, which is

about three times the size of Devro, that he is able to claim that the group makes enough sausage skins in a year to make the aforementioned round trip to the

To you and me, a sausage skin is a . Simple thing and not one worthy of much attention. But, as Alexander will happily point out, there are many different types of sausage casing and they must be able to do many different things. The British banger is encased in collagen, which is made from the underside of cattle hide and which is very thin but also strong enough to withstand the blasting of meet into it during the manufacturing of the sausages, as well as freezing and frying.

Devro is a major collagen producer, whereas Teepak produces mainly cellu-lose casings for hottog-type sausages, as well as fibrous coatings for salams and plastic covertoos for harms and pa The enthusiasm with which Alexander

talks about sausage skins helped to propel the company through an, at times, awkward flotation.

He believes that it was only when analysis had seen the factory in Moodiesburn, near Glasgow, and the complex processes that go into sausage skin production, that they decided that, in spite of the rather curious nature of the

business, Devro had very good prospects.

Devro started life as part of Johnson & PEOPLE receive hon-Johnson, the American healthcare empire, and was bought out by the management in 1991. The awkwardness of the

flotation came when the man who was expected to take Devro to the market as chief executive, David Fyle, was paid off with £390,000 before he even took the job. chiefly because of City objections. Alexan-der, who was then technical director and in charge of marketing, took the job instead, and prefers to look back on the whole business as a personal vote of

The large payoff for Fyfe was, Alexan-der says, unavoidable: "He had a contract with us, he had given in his notice at his previous job, where he had a very nice package. The general view was that we should not have an uncapped liability ahead of the flotation, even if it cost a bit more to cap it." He said that the affair spoilt things for a weekend, but then blew

Life for the company and for Alexander since has not been altogether smooth. Devro's shares were among those hit by the turnoil last year over "mad cow" disease as people realised that collagen is a cattle product. A quick decision to stop using British hides allowed the company to reassure customers, but it was nonethe-

less left with a stock write-off of £4.5 million and an estimated E5 mil-lion of lost sales. By contrast, the outbreaks of E-Coli in Scotland have elicited only one worried phone call, from Japan. It took us about a week to convince them that E-Coll was a butchers' issue," Alexander says.

He is philosophical

about the effects of BSE on business: "We have weathered the BSE storm reasonably effectively. Undoubtedly, we would have been better off if it had not happened, but it has not been the disaster it might have been."

For him, getting the purchase of Teepak through the American anti-trust minefield was the biggest challenge he has had to face. The idea of buying the American company arose soon after flotation. "We formed the view that we could be just a collagen company, but that would take you into sorts of areas such as biomedical, food additives, cosmetics. You become almost a conglomerate defined around your raw material. That was not the appropriate direction in which to go," he said.

The other route was to widen the range of sausage skins made and that led directly to Chicago b ed Teenak. In 199 Alexander made his first visit to Teepaks' owner, Hillside Capital in New York. The agreement in principle was reached fairly quickly, but the deal then went to the Rederal Trade Commission, which took

nine months to give clearance. During the period of discussions lead-ing up to the deal, and in the subsequent period of integrating the two companies, Alexander's working weeks developed a



Graeme Alexander enjoys a respite from globetrotting. Now he is trying to let others take more of the trips. "You have to settle back a little," he says

regular but exhausing pattern: "I would usually take the 6.30pm plane on Sunday from Heathrow to New York, have discussions Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, probably fly back Wednesday night, and then come in here [his office in Scotland] on Thursday and Friday."

Since then, it has calmed down and he now goes to America about once a month. But he also still travels all round the world to keep an eye on manufacturing and markets. "We have major operations in the UK, the US, Belgium, the Czech Republic, Australia. We have a marketing operation in Japan, Hong Kong, Germany. Holland," he says with a hint of weariness. All have to be visited regularly and he reckons that last year he was overseas about 60 per cent of the time.

The travelling keeps him away deal from his home in Killearn, five miles from Loch Lomond — and apart from his wife Cathy, two daughters, Mhairi, 13, and Alison, 11, and son, Gordon, 9.

Among his neighbours, he is considered something of an anomaly: "Everyone else finds my travelling a bit strange. I feel like other people go to offices, and I go to airports." A few years ago, the constant travelling began to get to him. "I got to the

stage where I detested it, I just didn't want to get on a plane." This was not good news for his family when it came to summer holiday time and they were packed off in the car to the windy Western Isles rather

than heading off to the sun by plane. Strategic pressure applied by the children means that they now go on a edneeday short flight to the Al-Thursday garve in Portugal each ·Travelling also

means he cannot play golf as much as he would like, but he still sometimes finds time on his trips to indulge his love of music. One of his happiest memories is seeing Mozart's Cosi Fan Tutte performed at the Sydney Opera House, and another is an outdoor performance of Tchaikovsky's 1812 Overture at Princeton University one Independence Day.

With Treepak now largely bedded down, be is trying to let other people do a lot of the travelling. "There was a stage when I had to see and be seen, but you have to seek a happy medium. You have to settle back a little," he says. Alexander sees himself above all as a

manager, although his background is as an engineer, and he has a PhD in production engineering. For the last 15 or 16 years I have had a much more managerial role, but I can still talk technology," he says, "What I enjoy is leading the team."

Engineering was in his blood. His father owned an engineering company in Glasgow and Alexander's early intention was to go back and take over that business.

But circumstances at Devro - his rise through the ranks, the buyout, the flotation and his elevation to the job of chief executive - meant that he never left. The family firm was gradually broken up

That has never worried him - or, fortunately, his father. "Given the chance to go back to 1977 when I joined the company, and knowing what has happened to me and has happened to the company, what would I do? I'd do the selfsame thing again. I have no regrets



Gem of an art collection to enliven house of diamonds

The London headquar-ters of De Beers in Farringdon is heavily guarded. Visitors must negotinic two or disce identifica-tion hardles before, being ushered into the reception area, where they sit beneath by Rachel Whiteread, Da-mien Hirst, Angus Fair-burst, Nicholas May and a large tapestry of Central Gavin Turk, all names that

Park waiting for a last check on their credentials. The security is light because high up on one of the upper floors - staff are rejuctant to divulge which is the De Beers diamond sorting room where one can only imagine thousands of gones laid out on trays of h black velvet.

Downstairs a collection of alternative gems has been assembled, considerably less valuable in market terms but as important to De Beers staff as the vaults of rocks that most have never seen. In the past couple of years, under the guiding eye of Sophie Oppenheimer. De Beers has updated its collection of art, assembling a desirant contemporary of desirant contempor range of daring contemporary works that would not look out of place in the newest and most challenging of modern art galleries.

Visiting diamond merchants are known to delay departure to view and condeparture to view and con-template arresting images by Paula Rego. Damien Hirst and Peter Howson, the young artist who recorded some of the most horrifying pictures of the war in Bosnia. Oppenheimer has chosen with a sharp eye, defity spotting many of the artists

- and buying their works -

just before they went on to

win the Turner Prize. In 1995

Joanna Pitman views a daring display of contemporary works at De Beers

have made headlines with heart-stopping works in the

intervening years.
"I seldom spend more than about £3,000 to £4,000 on any one piece, but I think the impression of the collection as a whole brings the office up to date," she says. "It gets people talking about the art. Not everyone likes all the pieces by any means but they are all interested." Leaving the lift on one of the commercial floors, visi-

tors are greeted by a colossal

buil rearing up in fury, nostrils flaring, eyes burn-ing. It is a beautifully executed work in charcoal on brown paper by Nicola Hicks. Near by is a large wax painting on linen by Atoro de Stefano, a moving image of Picasso as an old man. There is a David Hockney and an Andy Warhol, and along one corridor a series of prints by Paula Rego from her. Peter Pan series, all of them heavy with her dark and menacing undertones of

There is a print by Richard Hamilton from a photograph of Mick Jagger being



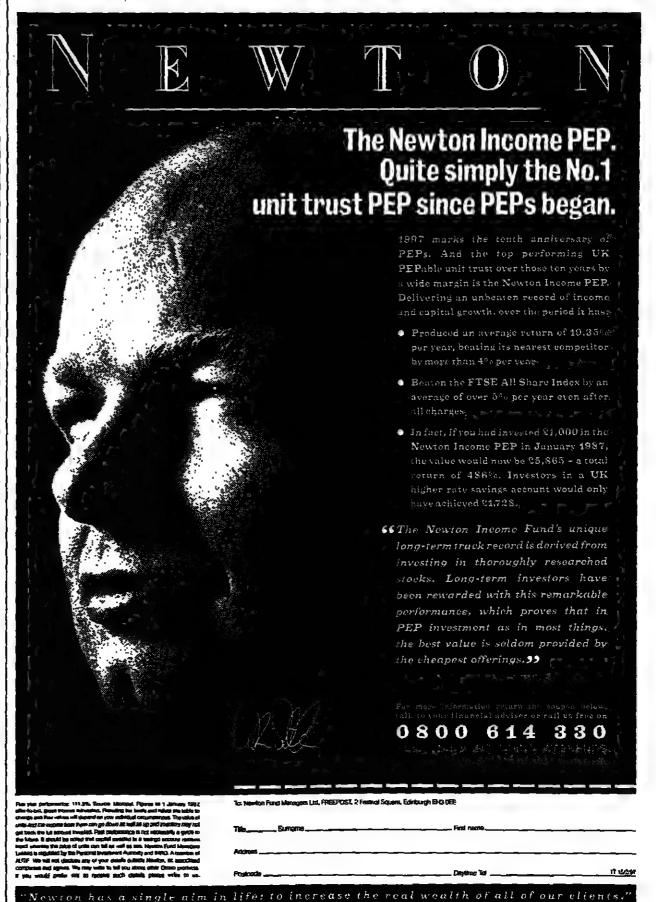
Nicholas May's Formless Fold on display at De Beers

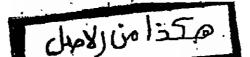
arrested, a series by Marlo Rossi, paintings of the final stills from True Grit and The Barefoot Contessa, and a picture by Stephen Far-thing that has the feel of a graffiti-daubed wall. Close to the lifts is a John Keane painting of a rubbish dump in South America crawling with children and cats scavenging through the stinking junk for food.

Although some of the images are shocking, none is provocative in a political or religious sense. "The collec-tion is designed to enliven the place," Oppenheimer says. "One or two have been placed out of the mainstream corridor areas because so many people objected to them, but I don't think that is necessarily a bad thing. All the pieces fit together as a collection of British contemporary art and there are bound to be unpopular works in any such

Douglas Gordon, who won last year's Turner Prize, is represented with a black and white photograph of a hitch-hiker labelled Psycho. Oppenheimer bought it be-fore he won the prize and is pleasantly surprised at its

popularity.
But one picture has earned almost universal opprobrium. Hear no Evil See no Evil by Mare Quinn is a black and white photograph of a man's head and shoulders with bits of human brain, ear and nose superimposed on the face and a rubber bong in the mouth. De Beers staff took a vote and had it banished to a far-







Shares close at record despite halving gains

ENCOURAGED by Wall Street's move above the 7,000 level overnight for the first time, investors on the London stock market were in celebra-

tory mood yesterday. Despite seeing earlier gains halved, the FT-SE 100 index closed 13.9 up at a new closing high of 4,341.0 after hitting an all-time peak of 4,353.4 earlier in the day. That stretches the gain on the week to 75.1. A total of 924 million shares had traded by the close of business.

Brokers expressed satisfacrion with the London market's performance and said some profit-taking, prompted by an opening fall in the Dow Jones industrial average last night. was inevitable.

Williams Holdings fell 3712p to 30012p after confirming it was the bidder for Chubb Security. Brokers appeared split over its £1.3 billion offer, which values the security and fire protection specialist at 450p a share. Some appeared worried over short-term earnings dilution. while others looked to the forecast of strong earnings enhancement in year three. Chubb moved 42p ahead to

424 2 p. Coincidentally, the fall in the Williams share price secured its demise as a constituent of the top 100 companies. From Monday, it must make way for BG and Centrica, the two demerged British Gas companies.

They have been trading on the grey market all week. Centrica, which includes the retail arm and Morecambe Bay gasfield, closed 12p steadier at 7512p on turnover of 7.45 million shares. BG, which includes the exploration and pipeline operations, rose 6120

Pilot Investment Trust rose 5p to 122p after rejecting an approach from the Undervalned Assets Trust. Pilot described the approach as 'unsolicited" and said it undervalued the company. Undervalued Assets saw its price slide 234p to 15612p.

Speculative buying continued to chase Smith & Nephe Sp higher at 196p, stretching the lead of the past two days to 17p. There is talk of a bid from across the Atlantic with Johnson & Johnson and Eli Lilley

Kwik Save also stood out with a rise of 28p at 314p on speculation. Rumours claim a bid from Tesco. This



Tim Dunningham, left, and Walter Goldsmith of Flying Flowers, celebrate record profits and a share rise yesterday

most quarters, although brokers admit Tesco may be up to something. It closed l'ap lighter at 343p. A total of 624,908 Kwik Save shares changed hands in a market where traders will normally only make a price in 15,000 at

Dixons, the high streel electrical retailer, was forced to deny claims that it was on the

Amro Hoare Govett, the broker. Amstrad added 5p at

The City has high hopes for digital television and the companies involved in it. Flextech. which has already linked up with the BBC, rose 18p to 790p amid talk of a big buyer stalking the shares. A total of 683,840 shares were traded. The success of the Spice

NatWest Securities, the broker, says the support services sector is due for consolidation after outperforming the rest of the market by 30 per cent during the past year. It is telling clients to buy Sage, up 5p at 579p, and Misys, up 3712p at Ell.3712. But it is turning bearish of Rentokil Initial, down 412p at 484p.

verge of launching a television with a built-in decoder. Such a move was deemed to be bad news for the likes of Pace Microsystems, down 7p at 16412p. Dixons finished 19p higher at 518120.

Psion shook off recent worries about increased competition from Alan Sugar's Amstrad with a leap of 3612p at 40312p. The shares were also underpinned by a "buy" recommendation from ABN

Girls, the all-girl pop group, in the US generated further interest in EMI, up 24p at EII.99. The EMI share price has tumbled from a peak of £14.86 in the past few months. overshadowed by the drop-off in the sale of records and compact discs worldwide. Copyright Promotions continues to draw strength from this week's link-up with Playmates Toys to market the Mr Men series of children's books

MOVERS OF THE WEEK							
Shield Diagnostics. 375½p Ashurst Technology95p VDC	Weet's things + 111½p Hopes for cardio-diagnosis + 111½p Hopes for cardio-diagnosis + 42½p Clinches US sports contract - 115p Profits warning - 48½p Disappointment with figures - 34p Siebe bids 155p a share + 96p Williams bids 435p a share + 96p Williams bids 435p a share + 33p Bids for Chubb						

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		and programmes. The rose a further 18 ¹ ap to Flying Flowers and beddin mail order company Jersey, rose 4 ¹ ap to 20 delivering record pressure and pressure an
		January 3, a jump of cent. The company's d
		is Walter Goldsmith a Dunningham is mana rector. The final div
1		2.72p makes 4.08p (3 the year.
		A profits warning Dailywin, which en session 30 ² ap lower i
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are likely to be lower than the E) million in the first six Cedardata, the computer

sofware specialist, was another casualty of a profits warning with the price more than halving by 139p to 1231 ap. It says profits for the current year would be below expecta-tions. Grieg Middleton, the broker, had been looking for pre-tax profits of £5.4 million against £4.4 million last time.

مكذا من الامل

English & Overseas, the property developer, fell 3p to 12p after warning shareholders not to hold out their hands for a final dividend. The net asset value was also likely to fall from 31p to 24p.

Ashurst Technology scored a home run with a rise of 2912p at 95p. The AIM-listed group has signed a contract with Easton Sports in the US to make and market baseball and softball bats.

Huntingdon International rose 7p to 118p after raising E5.75 million by way of a placing at 106p. A fund-raising exercise was also good for Electrophoretics Internation al, up 5p at 4812p.

GILT-EDGED: Early

gains in the London bond market were scaled back after a subdued start to trading by US Treasury bonds in re-sponse to weaker than expected producer price data. The March series of the long

gilt firmed £1 to at £1133 s.Treasury 8 per cent 2021 was E1s sury 7 per cent 2002 firmed a tick to \$1007s. ☐ NEW YORK: Investors held back on Wall Street, one

day after the Dow Jones industrial average topped industrial average topped 7,000. Some analysts were uncomfortable about the recent fast rise. By midday the

HAJOR ROICES	
New York (midday): Dow 1000s - 7002.81 (-1943) S&P Composite - 3948 (-2.34)	
Tokyo: Nikkei Avenge 1872200 (+33.54)	Lloyds shop
Hong Kong: Hong Song 13113.26 (-126.69)	_
Amsterdam: EUE Index 719,49 (+6,99)	THE BEST is yet to come from the Lloyds TSB merger, predicted Sir Brian Pitman, the chairman, who in the same breath feels that
Sydney: 282.0 (+13.8)	bank shares are still rated way below other retailers in spite of the recent re-rating of bank
Frankfurt: 3248.18 (+18.70)	shares. City dealers reacted by taking profits on the
Singapore: 755246 (+222)	recent gains in Lloyds shares. They were pleased with the dividend rise but made little
Brussels: General 11687,06 (+3.61)	alteration to 1997 and 1998 forecasts. Lloyds looks strong enough, in terms of capital, for an acquisition or special dividend
Paris: CAC-40 2622,42 (-0.99)	some time this year. Intriguingly, acquisitions could well be in an area once so troublesome.
Zuridi: SKA Gen 93660 (~4.90)	The Problem Country Debt division has been renamed Emerging Markets Debt, in defer-
London: F7 30 3582 (*30.4) FT 100 4341,0 (*13.9)	ence to the turnaround in Latin America's fortunes and the fact that Lloyds TSB wants to
FTSE Mid 250 4606.0 (-19.3) FTSE 350 2(42.0 (-7.3) FTSE Eurotrack 100 2158.67 (40.20)	forge closer business links in South America.
FT All-Share 2114.12 (+6.91) FT Non Financials 2135.48 (+7.65) FT Find Interes 119.66 (+0.23)	Williams had to be enough - an
FT Gowt Secs 96.45 (-0.11) llargains 90288 SEAQ Volume 915.3ca	SHAREHOLDERS in Wil- liams Holdings seemed to Rand is payin have few doubts that the Tonks—to so
USS	security and home improve-tional rivals. ment company had overpaid No one do
Bank of England official close (4pm)	to lock-up a deal with trial logic of

ESDR 1,1819 RPF 154.4 Dec (2,5%) Jun 1987=100 RPIX 154.2 Dec (3,1%) Jun 1987=100 C&B Publishing Calidore Group Calidore Warrants GB Raliways Hardy Underwrig John Lewis Prelude Tst + 15 Sutton Harbour Tea Plantations Wis

RIGHTS ISSUES

MAJOR CHANGES
RISES: Kwik Save
Smith & Neph
Aegent inns
De La Rue
Aspen Coms
Concentric
Oriel

.. 763p (-10p) . 763p (-12p) . 781'zp (-12p) .. 662'zp (-9p) .. 168'zp (-7p) .. 168'zp (-7p)

164p (-7'₂p 306'₊p (-8p

Closing Prices Page 45

lies in wait for would-be analysts: the oil price. At chair analysts can have so fun here watching the prosionals sweat. BP and Si this week said that the expected the oil price to rather than rise in the riew months. Falling oil priwould, of course, tend to course of Gulf Canada and cash bid. Gulf already has	Another perennial haz
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City investors gently into arms of Gulf Canada and	would, of course, tend to c
arms of Gulf Canada and	
Come offer count out case) tree	
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Lloyds shopping basket In Australia and New Zealand, a region of THE BEST is yet to come from the Lloyds which Sir Brian is particularly fond, there are still plenty of buying opportunities, and ANZ Bank may yet attract the chairman's acquisi-TSB merger, predicted Sir Brian Pitman, the chairman, who in the same breath feels that bank shares are still rated way below other netailers in spite of the recent re-rating of bank Although Sir Brian would like a retail

rating he said that he goes out of his way to avoid pushing a supermarket trolley, "with the possible exception of Christmas time". This was not a chauvinistic ourburst and bank watchers should take note. While his competitors seem ever more eager to forge alliances with supermarket chains, Sir Brian remains wary.

Whatever Sir Brian may believe, the good news at Lloyds TSB is in the price. The market should not bet, however, against Sir Brian pulling off another coup like Cheltenham & Gloucester or TSB.

mass - becoming arugably

the largest security company in the world - at a time

when the industry is consoli-

dating globally. Williams

has set itself tough, but

achievable, targets for cost

savings and profit improve-

ment over the next three

years. Success at this level

will prove yesterday's bears

Williams

SHAREHOLDERS in Williams Holdings seemed to have few doubts that the security and home improvement company had overpaid to lock-up a deal with Chubb Institutions had understood the strategy was to make small bolt-on acquisitions and not seal the kind of impact on first-year

But the price probably should be described as "full" rather than too high, with Williams able to point to extentuating circumstances. This is its fifth attempt to land a major catch in as many years. After four failures and millions of pounds in wasted fees -- it needed to get it right. One of these attempts was on Racal in 1992, when it

still owned Chubb. Equally, yesterday's

valuing an oil company.

Gulf's 120p-a-share bid, but

on cashflow Gulf would need

average oil sector cashflow

Clyde

per cent of Clyde and just a handful of big City fund managers control 47 per cent GULF CANADA'S £500 mil-

of the stock.

had to be pitched high enough — and it is exactly

the same price as Ingersoll-

Rand is paying for Newman

Tonks -- to scare off interna-

No one doubts the indus-

trial logic of the move. Wil-

liams gains exposure and a

ready-made distribution

channel in vital markets in

the East. It achieves critical

FINDING THE KEY AT LAST

lion bid for Clyde Petroleum Friendly oil analysts should at least remind invesbelieve that Clyde's managetors - armchair and profesment can add enough by way sional - of the hazards of of acquisition to keep up cash British analysts write generation in the future, although they would also con-cede that Clyde has a low cash value multiple because reams about asset values, their North American cousins wax lyrical on cashflow. It has to be said that on asset value Clyde is fully valued by of a past lack of confidence in this ability.

mend rejecting Gulf's bid would not be too surprised if to bid 170p to reach the Clyde succumbed at the final count on Tuesday. As anyone who has sold a house knows, the ultimate value of an asset is what a buyer can be the asset is Clyde Petroleum and the value is 120p a share of Gulf's money.

But even those who recom-

Wall Street

WHAT will it take to stop Wall Street? At the end of 1995, when the Dow first broke the 5,000 barrier, experts were predicting a quie year for 1996. It has since broken 6,000, in autumn 1996,

and 7,000 earlier this week. Talk in America that improved management of the economy by the Fed has virtually removed the cyclical pattern of behaviour from the economy and markets is probably overdone. It is nevertheless a wonder to behold that better economic management can remove the troughs of recession and the disruptive boom of an out-of-

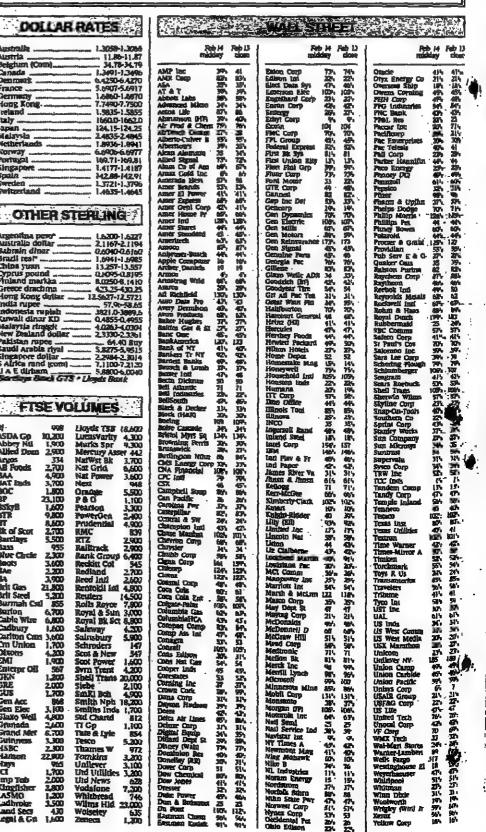
control economic upswing. Yesterday saw more figures from America showing that the economy was gently slowing after the strong growth of late last year.

lysts were last night saying their market was vuinerable to any bad news. At the end of last year it only took the chairman of the Federal Refall to occur. What will the

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THE TIMES SATURDAY FEBRUARY 15 1997

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JAPAN MALAISE 34

Smiling through in the land of the Rising Sun

WEEKEND M()NFY

INVESTOR ACTION 38

Pru ahead in bidding war for ScotAm



VALUE VENETIFIE YEAR

Anger lingers as pension rules change

Adam Jones meets a former helicopter pilot still feeling the effects of the Maxwell scandal

t happened five years ago, almost to the day. Anthony Pearman discovered that the pension fund to which he had been a studious contributor had shut down suddenly. Robert Max-. well had stolen its assets. Like thousands of other

workers and pensioners dependent on companies wholly: owned or controlled by Max-well, Mr Pearman faced near ruin. Now, within a matter of weeks, tough new rules and onerous responsibilities for pension fund trustees are being introduced in an attempt to ensure that another Maxwell scandal will not happen. From April 6, the Pensions Act 1995 comes into force and carries draconian penalties for trustees who preside over a fund where something goes wrong. In the worst-case scenario, those who fail to spot a pensions fraud could face

Mr Pearman, expecting a comfortable regirement as befitted a senior helicopter pilot with the rank of captain, and his wife, Gill, faced the prospect of having to survive on a mere £60 a week from the state. That threat eventually receded when investigators retrieved million in March 1995.

pension in retirement, after years of depending on a gov-ernment "drip feed" fund for estimated 19 per cent less than the pension he would have received if the Maxwell fraud had never happened.

Mr Pearman joined British Airways Helicopters in 1974, flying helicopters on North Sea routes. He joined the pension scheme. In September 1986 the company was sold by the Government to Robert Maxwell, who renamed it British International Helicopters (BIH). Unions, wary of his reputation, immediately feared for the safety of the £9 million pension fund when it was legal warranties to protect against proprietorial interfer-ence. These proved to be uscless. Its assets disappeared, presumably in attempts to prop up the ailing Maxwell empire. BIH workers could no longer contribute to the Mirror scheme, becoming "deferred pensioners", and were

For Mr Pearman the timing could hardly have been worse. Pilots generally retire at 55, and Mr Pearman was due to retire 14 weeks after the closure of the fund. This freak of timing dramatically reduced the value of his pension. It was due to be calculated using the salary paid in the 1991-92 financial year. However, the sudden closure meant lower 1990-91 figures were used. Mir Pearman, 59, calculates that this will have cost him £100,000 by the time he reaches 75. So who is to blume?

the law to use the smaller salary figure. lain Urquhart, scheme spokesman, said: "All of the BIH members have got benefits in accordance with the

But it is also true that the trustees had discretion to be more flexible in the way pensions were calculated. The temporary support. But Mr scheme rules stated: "In cer-Pearman is still getting an tain circumstances, final earnscheme rules stated: "In cerings are calculated in a different way to the actual final salary." At the time, Chris Jones, personnel manager of BIH, wrote to Mirror trustees on this point. He called for "the more equitable" calculation of final earnings. He said: "Surely in the case of wholesale misappropriation such methods that will give our members the closest possible pension to the one they expected to receive under normal circumstances is not

unreasonable.

initially allowed him to continwe working past his retirement date when his pension was in doubt. But when the Government's "drip feed" fund stepped ment, even though there was an agreement to extend his retirement age to 60. He also had to enlist the help of his MP to get moved into a new BIH penreports on the new BIH fund in which he had a small amount.

He says information was still not passed on. BIH, which is now owned by a Canadian company, refused to comment on Mr Pearman's redress have been closed off. The Maxwell Pensioners Trust, the drip-feed fund, was wound up two weeks ago. Jane Newell, chairman, said the trust was very sympathetic to his pos-ition, but it had decided to pay only what was ordained by the

Mr Pearman said: "For myself and my wife, who have Trustees were within retired, our time is up. There is no chance for us to recover. We should receive the pension we have paid for, no more and no. less. It is wrong that any individual Maxwell pensioner should be left to carry such a loss. The damage done to my It is true that tough dec

November 5, 1991. Robert Maxwell is found dead, pre-



Mortgage shake-up forecast

CASHBACK offers of up to £9,000 for first-time buyers and very low initial mortgage rates could disap-pear this summer, a building society expert predicts (Marianne

Curphey writes).
Instead of big upfront payments, mutual societies will try to introduce a blanket lower rate for all borrowers. Meanwhile, converting societies such as the Halifax and Woolwich will have to balance the demands of customers with those of

Rob Thomas, building societies analyst with UBS, the merchant bank, believes the summer will be a turning point for mortgage providers. "Halifax, Alliance & Leicester,

Woolwich and Northern Rock will be mindful of being careful with shareholders' money, while there is evidence that mutual societies are uncomfortable with the idea of giving amazing offers to new customers at the expense of their loyal

borrowers," he said. Evidence that the trend is already happening came two days ago when the Britannia Building Society said it had chased first-time buyers aggressively last year but had no plans for special discounts

Britannia has incurred £45 million of costs in offering discounted first-time mortgages last year. At one point't had 30 per cent market share. The society, which has underlined its commitment to mutuality by setting up a loyalty bonus scheme, intends to pay £35 million to one million members, making it the first propert to observe and armund. the first mutual to share out annual profits. The scheme is structured to exclude 300,000 "carpetbaggers" who joined the society in the hope of enjoying a windfall bonus if it

Members get an average taxable num of £35, with a maximum set at £500. The cash will be paid later this month and is calculated on the amount of 22p units that members have accumulated by borrowing

Mr. Pearman is unhappy March 9, 1992 Commons Social Security Committee recommends widespread

sumed drowned, off the coast of Gran Canaria. December 5, 1991. Trading

in Mirror Group shares is suspended as it emerges that Robert Maxwell siphoned off an estimated £300 million from the Mirror Group Newspapers pensions scheme and five other Maxwell company pension funds. The revelations prompt an SFO inquiry.

□ February 20, 1992. The investigators tracking down the funds reveal they have traced \$237 million of assets. But they place the total missing at £7Z1 million.

begin to dry up. The Government pledges £2.5 million of stop-gap compensation.

☐ June 13, 1992. The Maxwell Pensioners' Trust is established to put pressure on City institutions to repay some of the money they received as security for Maxwell's loans. ☐ June 23, 1992. NatWest Bank returns £25 million worth of Teva shares to the Maxwell pension funds.

☐ January 4, 1994. The security of Mirror pensions is boosted by a £25 million pretrial settlement from the Bank of America, followed by £27 million from Lehman Brothers and £32 million from Capel Cure Myers, Lehman Brothers and Invesco MIM.

transferred to the Mirror with the way the matter has Group scheme. They drew up been handled. The company Debruary 11, 1995. A £276 million "global settlement" is negotiated with a number of changes to pension regu-City firms. The payoff is chough to guarantee all Max-WEEKEND MONEY ☐ June 8, 1992. Payments for the 14,110 people aiready drawing Maxwell pensions is edited by Anne Ashworth Mind that election wobble an early Budget, made virtually inevita-ble by the first 100 days complex. PERSONAL Known losers would be utilities.

ech trading day, in a textbook world, the FT-SE 100 share index might gain about 1.5 points. In the real world, as fingernal-chewing investors know, daily oscillations are often big enough to obscure any trend. On Wednesday, a surprisingly rare event occurred. The net move on the day was exactly 0.00. Was this a pivotal moment, a pause for breath or merely the calm before the doldrums? The blue-chip index has gained 6 per

cent already this year. Yet sterling's strength has already persuaded fund managers to cut their forecasts of 1997 profit growth to 9.3 per cent. UK shares are not madly overvalued in relation to are not maily overvation in relation of other securities. They trade at an average 16 times earnings and yield more than 3.5 per cent. In America, where the Dow Jones average ventured blinking into the 7,000s this week, industrial shares sell at 24 times earnings, yields are below 2 per cent. There is no such bubble in Britain, but

enough air in the market for investors to look anxiously for impending shocks. These could come from a change in sentiment on Wall Street, a clash among foreign interest rates or any loss of confidence in the timetable or candidates for European monetary union.

The most tangible wobble factor is at home. Within three months, there will



able. Perhaps Labour's adoption of financial orthodoxy and its patently middle-class aversion to the radical has charmed away all City worries, in which case a Labour win might boost asset prices by ending uncertainty.

A formerly left-of-centre party, out of power for 18 years, would surely have its sound-money and fiscal policies tested more rigorously by the markets than familiar faces. Pressures would be high on Gordon Brown to follow the Bank of England's advice on interest rates to the letter (until he managed to downgrade ith, suggesting that autumn base rates could be half a point higher under

Labour than under the Tories.

Mr Brown would also be under pressure to shrink the Budget gap more surely. That would need higher taxes home. Within three manners, asset of pressure to shrink the Budget gap mane be an election. More than 90 per cent of pressure to shrink the Budget gap mane big investors have expected Labour to surely. That would need higher taxes form the next government since Merrill even if he stack to rosy Tory spending projections, because he would forgo projections. Lynch has asked the question in its projections, because he would forgo monthly survey. Markets do not yet seem to heed what this assumption.

The markets might therefore regret Mr. implies. Perhaps it all seems predict- Brown's insistence that he will deliver shock. It would certainly not be 0.00.

hitting the vast majority of private investors. Labour's approach to cutting people's need for means-tested welfare benefits depends on a utility levy to fund an up-front float for schemes to get the young unemployed, long-term jobless and single mothers into work. Whoever that levy covered and however it were apportioned, the prospective total bill is growing. The scheme for the young alone will cost "at least" El billion. That means more. Yet utility shares seem unconcerned. In the months before the 1992 election, for instance, water stocks lagged well behind the average. This time, they are slightly ahead.

The corporate sector would be a likely target for regular general tax increases too. Corporation tax rates could go up. A perverse coalition has been built to stop pension funds receiving dividends tax free. This would not directly affect the value of shares to private investors, but the impact on pension fund calculations could easily knock share prices by 5 to 10 per cent in the short term, depending as much on the emotions as on numbers.

Nor should individual shareholders expect to be immune. For instance. axeing the annual capital gains tax allowance along with mortgage interest relief might be politically handy, invit-ing non-PEP investors to realise gains ahead of Mr Brown's Budget. The over-all impact of Labour could be a nasty



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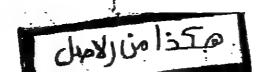
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Caroline Merrell finds overwhelming member support for conversion



John Stewart said the board had felt it was in the best interests of members if the Woolwich kept its independence and did not form an alliance

he Woolwich Building Society is on course to float by July 7, after this week's overwhelming vote in favour of the conversion.

Seventy per cent of investing members who were entitled to vote did so, and, of these, 95 per cent backed the proposals. The figure was the same for borrowing members. The society is expected to have a market capitalisation of £3 billion. The 2.57 million qualifying members will get payouts worth on average £1,200. Those who qualify for the basic distribution will get 450 shares, which will be priced between 175p and 200p. As well as the basic distribution of shares, many members will qualify for an additional distribution of shares. Anyone who had more than £1.000 on

We're with the Woolwich float

prise four free shares for each additional E100 saved to a maximum of E50,000. The maximum number of shares a member can get is 2,000.

The special general meeting held to discuss the flotation was attended by around 1,300 members. Some members wanted to know what the Woolwich planned to do after conversion, while others accused the board of wanting to line their own pockets. Michael Hardern, in charge of an

action group called Members for Conversion, said the share distribution was unfair. He said: "A flat distribution would have been better for the majority of members."

John Stewart, chief executive, gave a detailed account at the meeting of why the society had chosen to convert rather than form an alliance with another mutual or non-mutual organisation. He said that the board had felt that it was in the best interests of members if

the Woolwich kept its independence.

Mr Stewart also talked about the draft Building Societies Bill. The Woolwich is concerned about clauses in the Bill over the five-year protection from takeover enjoyed by societies post-conversion. The Bill says that societies that embark on the acquisition trail after they have floated will forfeit their protection. The Bill also makes it possible for a shareholder with a 15 per cent stake to launch a full bid within the five-year period. Mr Stewart said the society was continuing to negotiate on the Bill, but added: "We are not likely to abandon conversion."

even if the Bill goes ahead."

Mr Stewart had little comfort for disabled savers, many of whom have been locked out of the payout because they have trustees looking after their affairs and are, therefore, not the first regard on the account.

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Home loan changes

Continued from page 31 and saving with the society. Calum MacLeod, the chairman, said the bonus was equivalent to the dividend shareholders could expect from demutualised building societies in the future.

However, the payment dented Britannia's headline profit figures, so, although profits have risen in real terms, the bonuses and associated costs reduced operating profits to £72.8 million, down from £118.8 million in 1995.

Mr Thomas said: "Mutual building societies have long fett uncomfortable with the idea of two different borrowing rates and special treatment for new members. They will be much happier scrapping the headline offers and giving back some of their surplus in the form of borrowing rates below those of the converting societies.

"Meanwhile, the converting societies will not be able to be so generous because they will also be looking to please their shareholders."

Woolvich members have already voted in favour of conversion, while Halifax members are expected to do so at the Sheffield Arena a week on Monday. A large number of Halifax members have already returned voting forms in favour, and the closing date for postal votes is Monday. The society stressed that it needed all members to vote. Halifax will begin mailing its

Societies will not be able to be so generous

eight million qualifying members next month with details of its share dealing service. An estimated 10 to 20 per cent of members are expected to opt to sell their shares, worth an average £1,300, on the first day of trading. According to the transfer document sent to qualifying members, shares will be priced at between 390p and 450p. Mr Thomas believes the shares could be

worth more if the housing market continues to be buoyant. He said: "Essentially, buying shares in any of the converting societies is a play on the mortgage market, particularly if you hold Northern Rock shares because it is almost purely devoted to providing mortgages.

viding mortgages.

"If, as UBS predicts, net lending in the UK increases 20 per cent to £22 billion, and house prices rise 10 per cent nationally and 15 per cent in London by the end of the year, it will be good news for these shares."

Huge demand is expected from institutions for Halifax shares, since it is the biggest mortgage provider in the UK.

Other building societies

Other building societies with share dealing services are looking forward to benefiting from the demand for services on the first day of trading. Mr. Thomas said: "Estimates are that there will be turnover of £l billion in Halifax shares on the first day. That is equivalent to a normal day of trading on the London Stock Exchange."

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the former Chancellor. is showing off his new svelte form in a TV name awareness campaign for M&G personal equity plans

Faultlessly lit, in sombre tones the advertisement suggests menace. This is purely a stylistic device, a Nineties advertising cliche, designed to seize the attention rather than send a shiver down the spine. But viewers should take the feeling seriously. There may be a much better home for your money than the new M&G High Income Pep. launched to entice those anxious to put money in a Pep before the end of the tax year. The words Money and Growth may appear on the

tured in the commercial. But M&G stands not for these sterling virtues but for the less snappy Municipal and

The oldest of the unit trust groups, M&G manages 12.7 billion in Pep funds and has an awesome 477,000 Pep accounts. But anyone thinking that the group's age and size guarantees quality would be wrong. Once the star of the unit trust sector, M&G is now rated an also-ran.

BESt Investment, which analyses the Pep market, sees "no reason to recommend M&G funds and has even placed five of the group's Peps on its Spot the Dog list of plans that should be aban-doned. Holders of the Equity



ANNE ASHWORTH Personal Finance **Editor**

Income, Midland & General and Smaller Companies Peps are probably now wishing that they had never become aware of the M&G name.

Although one might think that M&G would be concentrating its efforts on improving the fortunes of its existing. plans, it is busy promoting its new High Income Pep. Reser-vations have already been

expressed about this fund, but the M&G marketing machine will, as usual, relentlessly accentuate the positive. This is one area where performance has yet to falter.

Mutual dislike AS THE nation prepares for the Great Halifax Vote, those building societies who love life will be sweet if you give your heart to a mutual. To date their efforts are not entirely convincing.

For example, there is now talk that these societies will abandon cut-price mortgage offers for new customers in the summer and allow all borrowers to enjoy lower rates instead (see page 31). This sounds generous. But the move would be as advantageous for the societies who resent having to offer expensive enducements to prospective borrowers. Reduced rates for all customers would be a

much cheaper option.
The Britannia, which has been foremost in proclaiming

mutuality are jostling for its attachment to mutuality, their share of the limelight.

They aspire to assure us that payouts under its dividend payouts under its dividend package (page 39). Three quarters of the one million eligible customers received less than 150. To register for this small reward, these savers completed forms supplying invaluable information about themselves and their finances

> to the society. Meanwhile, the Bir-mingham Midshires, another mutual devotee, will next month be introducing charges to some customers with balances under £500.

> The imposition of charges on small investments is more the action of a big bank than an organisation supposedly committed to old-fashioned

When the credit card won't do nicely

Jason Nissé ran up against the

limit when he used his plastic

emember the 1980s when credit card companies were being criticised for giving out too much credit? Students would turn up at university and were handed Barclaycard application form as soon as they picked up their grant cheques. Single parents on the dole were given thousands of pounds to spend on consumer durables that

TO A THAT LAST

they could not afford. I never thought I would be nostalgic for those days. But American Express has made

All I wanted was to increase the limit on by credit card. I like the AmEx credit card. It gave me free membership for a year. I get lots of free offers and Expressions points, which I can turn into Virgin Freeway

air miles. But for some crazy reason, when I joined I only received a credit limit of £1,000. I did not think it was a problem for six months or so, until I was buying a sofa and handed my card over for it to be returned as not having enough juice. I immediately called AmEx and said: "How about doubling

my limit then?" "Sorry, no can do," came the answer. "You have to have the card a year before you can have your credit limit increased."

"Oh," I said, and whipped out my Visa card instead. All was well until just before Christmas, when I decided that I might like to go to Australia and would probably like to pay for the ticket with

Am Bx So I called up. "Hello. It's me again. I'd like to increase

my credit limit." "No can do," I was told again. You've spent too much. If you are mudging your old credit limit we cannot increase it."

"But when you are nudging your old limit is just when you want to increase it," I replied. "Rules is rules," came the

S o I paid off my balance and called back. "Hiys. It's your old friend with a strangely familiar request. I'd like my credit limit

increased. "Er ... sorry. No can do. According to our records, you only earn £10,000 and we can't give a credit limit on more than a tenth of your salary." ."£10,000?" I said. "That was

my salary in 1986. I earn lots nore than that." "Oh," AmEx said. "It must be a mistake. I'll check our records and if it's wrong on the computer I'll amend it and up your limit. If not, I'll need you to fax me your last three pay

slips to confirm your current Salary." "So you'll phone me if you

And I heared nothing for a week or so. So I reckoned my credit limit had been in-



Easy come, easy go, but not if the credit card company sets a limit that is based on out-of-date salary figures

creased. Then I decided book my plane ticket:

"No can do," the agent told me. "American Express won't authorise your payment."
So I called AmEx. "What's wrong?" I asked.

"You've gone over your credit limit," came the reply.
"But it's £2,000," I replied. "No it's not. It's still only a

thousand." So I got on to the supervisor and she said: "Well, we called you to say we needed that fax, but no one was in."

"Why did you not leave a message on the answering

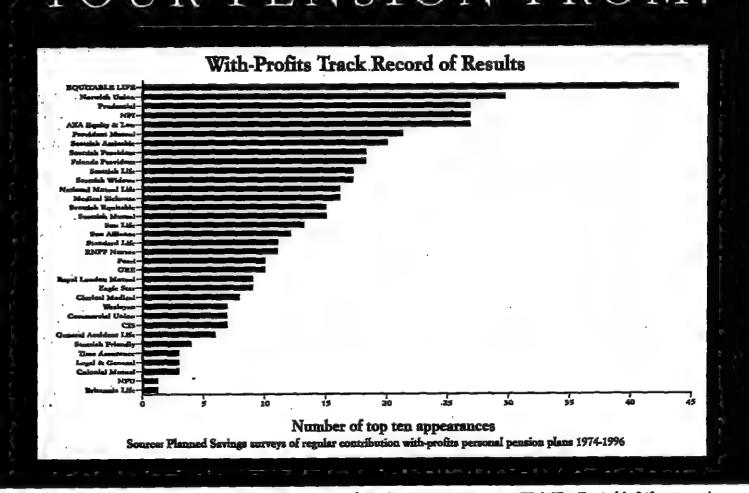
"Er ...: dunno." Well, I was little perturbed by this. And the kind woman said she would immediately increase the limit to £1,500 so 1 could buy the ticket and would up it to £2,000 when I sent her the face.

So I sent her the fax. Then I received another call

few days later. Hello. This is American Express. It seems you have exceeded your credit limit." "I can't have. My limit is

"No. According to our records, it's only £1,500," came the insistent reply. Oh for the days of easy

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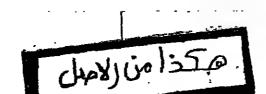
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Gavin Lumsden looks at the prospects for the Japanese stock market

Downhearted in land of the Rising Sun



may well be feeling downhearted as they scan performance tables to see how

their money is faring. Not one of the 85 unit trusts or 11 investment trusts listed by Micropal as investing solely in Japan has returned a profit to investors over the past

The reasons for this commehensive failure are a Japanese economy firmly in the doldrums and an exchange rate that has decimated the meagre returns for sterling investors. Since April, the yen has fallen in value from 130 to the pound to more than 200.

While stock markets in the UK, the US and Europe have all risen this year. Japan's has fallen 6 per cent, and there are few signs of recovery.

The centre of the gloom is Japan's debt-ridden banking sector, which has been strug gling for seven years to recover from its disastrous investments in property in the Eight-ies. Last week Nikkon Credit Bank was forced into the unprecedented step of holding. press conference to say that it was still liquid. At least three other lenders are in similar trouble. Banks, which make up a fifth of the Topix stock market index, have slid more than 10 per cent this year and are still overvalued.

The rest of the market has been depressed by forecasts of economic growth slowing to below 2 per cent this year, compared with 3.5 per cent last year. One reason for this is the Government's decision to reduce its 7 per cent budget deficit by cutting back on the huge public works programme with which it has sought to buoy the economy in the Nineties.

To make matters worse, lanan seems to be heading for its first consumer recession. Consumers are unhapov as the Government has put up VAT and repealed tax breaks that it introduced only two



Tokyo's Chinatown residents shrug off investment worries

are getting a raw deal. As a result, manufacturers are finding it hard to sell their goods.

The only bright spot has have profited from the depreciating yen, which has made their products cheaper overseas, particularly in the US. Nevertheless, fund manag-

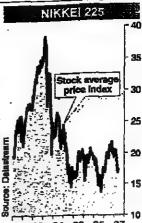
ers are reducing their expo-sure to Japan. The influential MSCI World Index, which fund managers use as a benchmark for international funds, has reduced Japan's weighting from 25 per cent to 15 per cent in the past year alone.

Some managers, such as GT Global, have stripped out Japan from their Far East funds, arguing that its senile economy is out of place among the Malaysia and Indonesia. It is do it. I think there will be a stocks.

all very different from 15 years ago, when Japan was hailed as the economic miracle of the

According to Norika Hama, of the Mitsubishi Reasearch Institute in London. Japan needs to undergo another metamorphosis to prosper in

the next millennium. Hama says: "The system that served Japan well for 50 years has outlived its usefulness. It needs deregulation to allow new players, small companies with new ideas and the regional economies to come forward. There has been too much centralisation in Japan. Ryutaro Hashimoto, Prime Minister, has said he is ready to go up in flames to do something similar to Britain's



succession of prime ministers and governments until any-thing is done. Until then, it is not a market you would touch with a barge pole." Rod Birkett, of Flemings

Investment Management, is less gloomy, but admits that the light at the end of the tunnel is no more than a glimmer. He says: "The miracle of Japanese manufacturing has not gone away, it is just that these companies have not produced the earnings per share that UK and US companies have."

That is because Japanese companies put shareholders' interests after their relations with employees, banks and customers, although Birkett sees early signs that this is

He says that a fairer way to value Japanese companies is on price to earnings. On this basis, global players such as Hitachi, NTT and NEC are half the price of their counterparts in the UK and the US. Birkett believes that corporate cashflow will improve later in the economic cycle, boosted by the weak yen. But when will that good value result in higher equity returns for investors? Mr Birkett is not sure. .but believes Japan is still a good long-term bet: "The best approach to investment is to buy at the right time and sit on it for ten years. Japan is cheap, and could get cheaper, but at some point it will become expensive," he says.

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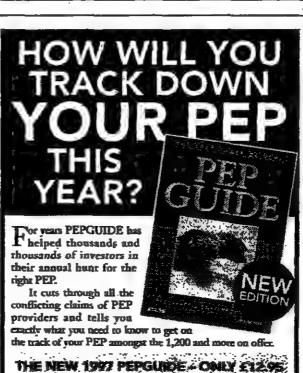
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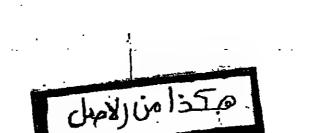
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The smiling face of Bill Gates advertising the advantages of investing or being quoted on Nasdaq, a US stock market, in a current television campaign, could lead to many private investors imagining that they too will rack up wealth akin to that of the Microsoft chairman. His stake in the company he founded is reputed to earn him \$15 million a day - adding to his personal wealth, which is reputed to be in the region of \$20 billion. However, private inves-tors should be careful before they decide to take the plunge on Nasdaq-quoted companies. This market, which some

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claim is similer to the UK's Alternative Investment Mar-ket, should be treated with caution. Forty-live per cent of the companies that trade on Nasdaq are technology-based. The high-risk nature of technology shares was graphically illustrated this week in the UK by Virtuality, the virtual reality firm. The company was detors more than £7 million. Four years ago it floated with a 170p share price. Its shares were suspended at 68.5p.

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Nasdaq lists more than 5,500 companies, with a total market capitalisation of £1,000 billion. The average market capitalisa-tion of a Nasdaq company is about £180 million. This average can be compared with, for example, the market capitalisation of Psion, the UK-hased personal organiser maker. Its market cap is about £300 million. It can also be comcap of an AIM-listed company, which is £35 million.

The returns on Nasdag, however, have been good. The Nasdaq composite index rose 22 per cent last year, which compares with a rise of 15 per cent in the UK market. In 1995 the Nasdaq index rose 45 per Last year 655 new public

offerings were made through this market, while net new companies joining the market intalled 434. Advertisements for Nasdaq

zive a Web site address on the Internet. This will give investors details about the share price movements of particular stocks, and has a list of SO However, buying and selling

shares through Nasdaq can be who were interested in buying



Bill Gates and Microsoft are helping to advertise Nasdaq

a tricky process for those in the UK. Tim Cockerill, investment manager at Whitechurch Securities, said: "There are a number of problems for anyone trying to buy US stocks directly. You will have to find a broker that can deal on your behalf. It can be an expensive exercise. You are also subject to the dangers of currency expo-

The recent strength of ster-ling against the dollar has also been detrimental for US-based

"Nasdaq companies tend to be high technology companies, which are very difficult to understand and price at the best of times. It is difficult in the UK to get good information on se types of companies." He advised UK investors

son has three trusts investing in North America. One of them, the American smaller companies trust has risen 155 per cent over the past five years, while Prolific's trust has risen 123 per cent over the same period, according to figures from HSW, the statistics firm.

in to the US market to choose a

collective investment scheme

such as an investment trust or a

unit trust. He recommended

trusts run by Henderson and

Prolific. For example, Hender-

Manthew Orr, director of Killik & Co, the stockbroker. said: "I do not think that direct equity holdings in US stocks are appropriate for everyone. If you want to buy shares directly in the US market, then you have to get hold of a US broker and get a quote for the price of the stock." He also said it was

do a transaction through a foreign exchange, Killik's minimum charge for buying or selling US shares is £75. Mr Ort said that in the US it was far easier for those with only small amounts of money to deal cost-effectively. There are a huge number of discount houses, which makes the market more competitive."

He pointed out that there was a totally different investment culture in the US. Changes introduced after the Second World War and a campaign run by the stock exchange to encourage US citizens to buy a "piece of America" means that today many more Americans have portfolios of stock, compared

people in the UK believe that you have to have a lot of money before you can afford the services of a

He also believes that those who are interested in the US market should consider investment through a unit trust or an investment trust.

There about 120 US-invested unit trusts available on the market. Over one year, the average US-invested unit trust rose 10 per cent. Unfortunately, a lot of the rise in the US market was wiped out by the strength of sterling against the dollar. Top performing funds included those run by Old Mutual, Hill Samuel, HSBC, and invesco.

Over five years, the average US unit trust produced a return of 118 per cent. The best performing funds included those run by Schroders, Perpetual, Govett, Gartmore and Edinburgh Fund Managers.

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Speculators in the South boost prices of property

But Caroline Merrell reports little

evidence of a return to the Eighties

enneth Clarke this week declined to raise the base rate, anxious not to increase mortgage rates before the general election. The Chancellor was acting against the advice of the Bank of England. Howard Davies. its Deputy Governor, said that the property market was beginning to overheat — a view shared by the professionals.

Despite figures from the Halifax Building Society showing a slowdown in the rate of price rises in January, estate agents in London and the South East are telling purchasers that a degree of speculation is entering in to the market, reminiscent of the boom-bust cycle of the late

Many agents are reporting a shortage of supply of proper-ty, particularly in fashionable

The increase in activity is pushing up prices of property sharply, particularly in London. Estate agents say many properties are now going for the asking price. Purchasers can no longer afford to negotiate, as they risk losing the choicest properties to a higher hadder.

Estate agents are advising customers to be patient. They claim that more properties will come on to the market later in

Elsewhere, agents are reporting patchy recovery. All say there is some pick-up in activity, and supply is not quite as limited as in London some believe that the general section, expected in May, is ound to act as a dampener on

he market recovery. In London, some of the culation is being driven by reign investors buying for

Nigel Butcher, an agent with Black Horse agencies, based in Chelsea, said: We eve American, Arab and sapanese investors buying up properties for investment. The strength of sterling means that they can get high returns from renting out property. The pound may end up strengthenng even further after the ection, which will add to this

"What is happening is that as soon as we have a new property on, before the details ave been printed tip, we will have had two or three offers at or near the asking price. We then get into a bidding situa-

Mr Butcher said many of those buying property in the area were buyers who had rented for a long time. He said: "We have couples buying lats for £300,000. They may be putting down £125,000 or so of that. He added that his City bonuses were behind some of the speculation. Estate agents on the outkirts of London are experienc-

g similar problems. Woodcroft, an agent with Woolwich Property Services, based in Woking. Surrey, said: "The market is picking up. I do not think there



Scottish property is in better shape than its depiction in Lowry's The Old House, Wick

people are boying, there are fewer selling. There is a real shortage of three, four and five-bedroom houses. People are much more positive." In other parts of the country, the recovery is much slower. Stephen Lofthouse, an agent in Metcalfs, Torquay, said: "The months before Christ-

would have gone for £34,000." North of the border, where mas were excellent and this has carried through to the new year. However, we are not seeing any price increases and we do not have a shortage of property. What we are seeing the discounts parrowing.

to take a thousand pounds or so off the asking price." Lofthouse said that there was still a LVI problem with negative equity in the area. "At the ight of the boom, onebedroom flats were selling for around £45,000. These will now sell for around £20,000. Many first-time buyers are simply missing out this stage and are going for more expen-

Vendors are now only willing

sive property." Steven Beilin, an agent with BE Property Services, Liverpool, is also not as upbeat as agents in the South. He said: "Selling was good up until Christmas. We were expecting a rush after that — but it has

some concern about the election. The market is also very hot spottish. There is a shortage of supply of good proper-ties. However, the vendors' position has been strengthened. A property on the mar-ket for £38,000 will now go for around £36,500. Previously, it

to submit blind bids when they buy property, is also experiencing something of a

Fiona Cunnigham, a partner with Duncan Hamilton in Edinburgh, said: "We have been incredibly busy. Usually the property market is very quiet in January. We expect this to continue into the spring. Normally you would expect one or two offers but we are getting six at the moment. Some will be way above the valuation. A property that would have sold for £122,000 at the end of last year will now go for £135,000."

Steve Bell, chief economist with Morgan Grenfell, believes the house price recovery will continue, but there will be no return to the excesses of the Eighties. He said: There has been a real increase in wages, which is helping house price movements. We expect this to

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erica

House agents look sharp

Martin Waller shows how estate

There is something about buying and selling a house that brings out the worst in people, whether it leave. It also brings out the worst in some estate agents, especially in today's market,

It goes like this. You see the

agents can bend the selling rules house you want, but you The advantage to the agent know there are going to be is two dollops of jam, two sets several other potential buyers of fees — and an easy ride. The advantage to the agent

the property, and the it asks about your own it safe. Do you have an

office bandling both transactions, if the properties are sited closely. The disadvantage is that it is illegal, contravening the 1979 Estate Agents Act, and also contrary to all codes of practice. As bad is a promise to favour existing clients of the

agent, giving them first sight of any properties. Look at this extract from a round-robin letter posted to a household in southwest London recently: If you own a property to sell in SW19 or SW20, we promise to show you all the new properties that come to the market first, within 24 hours. All we want you to do is grant-us an audience with you at your home so we can give you

about our service." The implication is clear.
This is not illegal — not quite.
The agent will give you first call on all new homes on its books if you allow them to get a foot in your door.

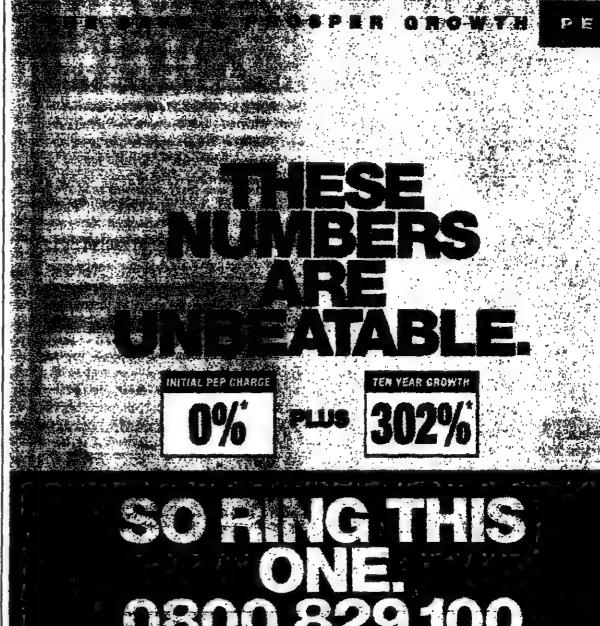
a valuation and tell you more

you would be illegal, under the 1979 Estate Agents Act.

The above example was viewed by the Royal Institu-tion of Chartered Surveyors as "highly dubious". Hugh Dunsmore-Hardy, chief executive of the National Associthought it was "sziling close to the wind". It clearly breaches his association's code of practice, which forbids those who have indicated they are prepared to let you pro-

that agency's existing clients. They are paying for the quick-est and easiest sale to the highest buyer — not to buyers prepared to discuss their own house sales with the agent The conflict is clear. The ideal purchaser might be someone buyer. Neither would get

Estate agents have experienced some lean years, and they clearly intend to make the best of any boom. But Mr Dunsmore-Hardy admits: "It is indicative of a market that. bluntly, is short of properties at the moment that there is some evidence of agents stooping to unethical practices in terms of how they



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SCOTTISH WIDOWS



Porx-Tracking Pfly

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Analysts back 'innovative technique', says Marianne Curphey

Pru ahead in bidding war for

as the front-runner in tish Amicable, the mutual life insurer. City analysts have been tipping Prudential as the favourite because of the strength of its own life company and the financial security it offers. Scottish Widows.

Meanwhile, Prudential, Abbey National and Australia Mutual Provident (AMP) have signed confidentiality clauses allowing them access to Scottish Amicable's sensitive fi-

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nameral information.

All companies which sign such agreements will be forbidden from using the information to make a hostile bid in the future. Drawing up legal con-tracts has taken about a week. Other potential bidders include Fortis, Aegon, ING Barings, GE Capital and BAT Industries, which owns Eagle Star. However, despite the high level of interest which Scottish

Amicable has excited, policyholders of the mutual will only be given a synopsis of the bids made. The Scottish Amicable board will choose the offer it believes is the best and make a recommendation that policyholders accept it. Scam, the action group led by Stephen Ross of Northways Insurance, review to run the bidding war. Insurance analysts believe the hidding war has been effectively won by Prudential and that potential suitors will now turn their attention to other attractive mutuals, including Friends Provident, NPI and

Prudential has a £1.9 billion bid on the table, compared with Abbey National's El.4 billion bid. Abbey has pledged to increase the offer and incorporate aspects of the Prudential's offer. However, Nick Bunker, in-

surance analyst with James Capel, believes that the Prudential has the best-constructed bid because it would use the financial clour of its own giant life fund to make a £1.1 billion loan to Scottish Amicable. Prudential is also offering £400 million in bonuses, which will be paid for from free assets in Scottish Amicable's life fund. The £400 million cash or shares will come from the £250 million of shareholders' funds and from E150 million worth of cost savings from combining the

operations of the two insurers. The Abbey's initial bid of-fers about £1 billion for the profits from future business written by Scottish Amicable



Stephen Ross is "very unhappy" with secret bid talks

cash or shares. Scottish Amicable now admits that its own offer — £75 million worth of bonuses it originally offered, plus further bonuses in three to five years will probably not be included in the recommendation. Some aspects of this offer. including an incentive scheme that could have awarded the

Mr Bunker said Prudential appeared to be the front-runner because it had enough financial strength to make a loan to Scottish Amicable's life fund

Scottish Amicable directors up

to El million each, angered

and offer cash to policyholders without straining its own reserves. He believes the offer will be successful because of Prudential's "innovanve technique" of distributing the free assets in the Scottish Amicable life fund to policyholders, and the management strength it can offer.

"AMP is not in the same league as the Prudential," he said. "It is a mutual and not the powerful quoted company with the reputation in the City that Prudential has." He believes that BAT does not have a big enough life company to compete with Prudential.

believes policyholders should (known as embedded value) and £400 million in Abbey

THE END of free banking has come a step nearer after Birmingham Midshires, the building society regarded widely as one of the most likely to convert to a bank, announced plans to introduce

fees on two of its instant access accounts (Marianne Curphey writes). The fees, being introduced from March 31, 1997, will affect only customers with balances of less than £500 in the society's Quantum and First Class (postal) Instant Access Accounts.

For customers with between £100 and £499 in their accounts, there will be six free withdrawals per quarter.

After that there will be a £1 withdrawal fee. Customers with a balance of under £100 will pay a fee of £1 per withdrawai and a £3 annual fee.

Birmingham Midshires to charge

Birmingham Midshires is the fifth society to introduce fees on some of its savings accounts. Alliance & Leicester, Britannia, Bristol & West and Coventry already operate transaction fees. A number of banks, including Barclays and NatWest, have introduced paid-for accounts with perks and free products.

·· Some industry observers have suggest-ed that, in time, all banks and building societies will discriminate against cus-

1996 - has your investment?"

tomers with low balances who do not buy any other products, such as insurance or a mortgage, from them. Birmingham Midshires customers will not have to pay fees if they have a mortgage, pensions or insurance policy with the society, or any other account with a balance of £500 and

above, including offshore accounts.

Ian Kerr, head of retail services, said: "We have to question whether there is a long-term future for free banking and we need to take action now to ... avoid attracting more high-transacting customers trying to avoid the charges imposed by our competitors.".

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Britannia puts a value on mutual perks

SOCIETY

Building Society members will find out how much mutuality is worth when they receive their first loyalty bonus later this month.

For most, the initial answer is not a lot. Britannia is divvying up E35 million, around a third of last year's profits, giving an average payment of £35, which is

subject to tax.

The bonus payments go to savers and borrowers who were members throughout This excludes around 300,000 deposit account holders and a further 300,000 opportunistic "carpetbaggers" who leapt in after the first demutualisations were announced last spring.

How much members get depends on how many points, worth 22p, they have accrued. Savings up to £20,000 get one point for every £100 whereas mortgage payments up to £500. per month get one point per £1. Britannia rewards long-term members, multiplying their number of points by 1.5 if they have been with the society for over five years and doubling

them over ten years. A total of 780,000 members will get less than £50 as a result and another 217,000 up to £100. Two-year members with £2,500 in an instant access account will get a miserly £5.50, enough for two pints of lager and no crisps.

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Only 43,000 people, around 3 per cent of members, get more than £100. To get this a recent member must have a £420 monthly mortgage, £5,000 in a high interest account and a life assurance

Britannia is the only society aims will match what the Gavin Lumsden compares

the various loyalty benefits offered by building societies

ern Rock will be able to pay out when they convert. The sands of pounds of free shares either, but then as a committed defender of the mutual faith, it is not trying to buy the

business off its members.
Other societies resisting the conversion tide, notably, Na-tionwide, Bradford & Bingley, Coventry and Yorkshire, have opted for members' benefit schemes, reserving between a third and a balf of annual profits to improving their sav-

ings and mortgage rates. Nationwide committed itself to passing on £200 million of benefits to its seven million borrowers and savers last year. Bradford & Bingley set aside £50 million for rate improvements and is offering 1-2.1 per cent discounts on its 6.99 per cent base rate for up to five years. However, borrowers have to take out insurance products with B&B to get

Coventry Building Society has distributed £20 million of profits through schemes such as the Privilege mortgage rate

o is it a simple choice between cash in hand

or better rates? Not yet.
Comparing Britannia with
the societies offering benefit
schemes and Abbey National, which has converted,

with the Halifax, which is

about to, it is clear that the

bonus giver is still holding its

head up. While its rates are

not always the best, so far it

Moneyfacts, Britannia offers

0.1 per cent to 3.35 per cent on

better than Abbey and Halifax and matching most ac-

has remained competitive. According to figures from The rate is currently 6.5 per cent, compared with the 7.25 per cent standard variable rate. Coventry says this has saved borrowers £229 in 1996. Yorkshire reckons it will

have given back around £40 million in improved rates in the past 12 months, the equiva-lent to half of annual profits. Its standard variable mortgage rate is 6.94 per cent for all its 160,000 borrowers and interest on its instant access account starts at 2.1 per cent.

ome societies have not launched schemes but have nonetheless been forced to reduce margins to remain competitive. Portman, for instance, says it is still committed to smaller savers and pays 4.6 per cent on its instant access account.

Rob Thomas, building societies analyst at UBS, says: "Britannia's loyalty bonus is a more complex scheme than a commitment to better rates. but is a more high profile way of demonstrating to members the benefits of mutuality. Britannia members will clearly see that they have been given a

Competitive despite bonus

POLICY

to 5.6 per cent.



Rich pickings as the dwindling number of mutual societies offer a host of perks and favourable rates to stay in the race to keep members

PERFORMANCE

GOOD performance com-bined with members seeking to boost loyalty bonus points doubled sales of Britannia Fund Managers' Peps and unit trusts to £110 million last

unit trusts carry 50 points each in the loyalty bonus scheme. But unlike Britannia's mortgages and savings products, they do not confer membership of the society.

But don't be deterred if you are not a member. Four of the Britannia funds have outperformed their markets over five years. The Smaller Companies unit trust has been particularly impressive, returning £284 on er Yield, Balanced Growth and Managed Portfolio, its fund of funds unit trust, have also

But Britannia's charges are beginning to look pricey com-pared with its rivals, with a 5.5 per cent initial and 1.5 per cent

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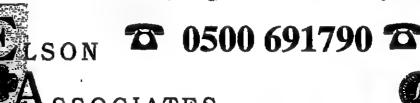
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benefits givers. However, for 7.25 per cent standard variable rate is the consensus, deposits over £25,000. Naalthough it follows a year in which it has spent £45 miltionwide's CashBuilder offers 4.1 per cent and Bradford & Bingley's direct premium account 5.5 per lion in discounts wooing first-time borrowers. It is also offering its rate-reversal cent. On postal accounts the society is middle of the road mortgage capped at 6.99 per cent until September 1999 which will decline if base with rates from 4.85 per cent rates drop before then. Of course this might

On notice products, rates on Britannia's high interest and bonus builder 60-day change. So, while the letter from Britannia this month accounts start at 3.5 per cent might contain a welcome, if than Abbey, Bradford & small, surprise for members, Bingley, Halifax and Yorkthey should keep a watchful eye on what the society does vith rates in the future. On mortgages, Britannia's

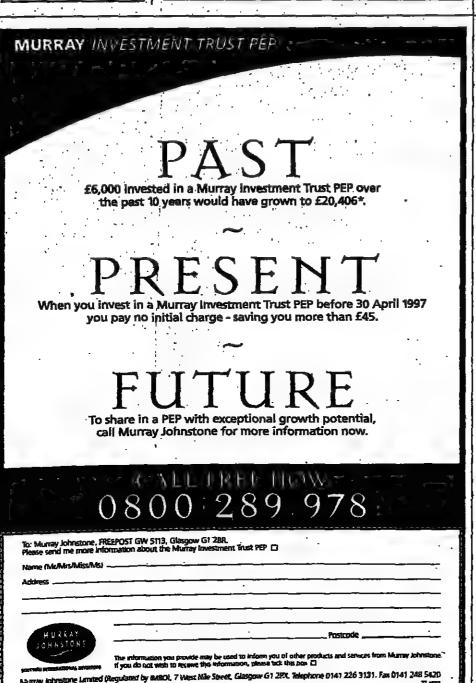
Not that Britannia intends to let its members forget the society. John Heaps, chief-executive, says awarding the a lot about its members. For instance, it was surprised to learn that the average member had been with the society for seven-and-a-half years, far longer than expected. It is intending to increase the amount of cross-selling of products to customers, par-ticularly on its Pep range. So expect more mail from Bri-tannia in future.

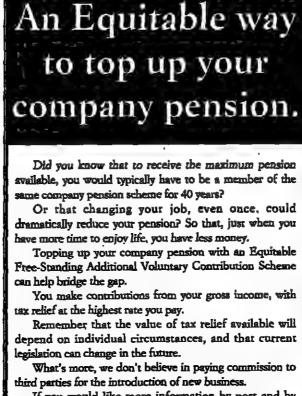
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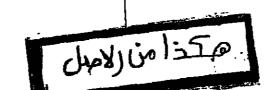
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BEGINNER'S GUIDE TO THE STOCK **MARKET**



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In the fourth of a five-part series, Weekend Money sees how the professionals value shares and how such City techniques can be used by the private investor. We will look at companies that raise fresh cash, and how the small shareholder should react. Some of this is rather technical; all is important, if you want to be a serious investor, rather than someone who waits for the dividend cheque twice a year. The more you know about your investments, the more control you have over them.

The price-earnings ratio for a company that made 40p together with the dividend yield is the most important investment mea-sure, which is why both are quoted on newspaper share price pages. The p/e ratio tells you how the City regards your company, and how it compares with its peers on the stock market.

The number is achieved by taking the share price and dividing it by the earnings per share. This last is just what it sounds: it is found by dividing annual profits by the number of shares in existence. It will come out as a number in

This is not an objective indicator of profitability, because it varies according to how many shares there are in issue, and this varies from company to company. Take a share price of 480p.

each share in issue. The share price represents 12 years' of such profit, and we say it has a p/e ratio of 12. This is other-wise expressed as, "the shares sell on 12 times' earnings". This is a bit below the general stock market average. Obviously, if the share price

of this company rises to 560p, then the ratio, or rating, rises to 14. So the ratio tells you what the market thinks of the shares. Take a company on a sky-high ratio of 25.

The market thinks it is worth more, share per share, than other companies on the market - perhaps because growth prospects are so good that in a few years' time profits will have doubled. Generally, so will earnings per share. If this happens, the ratio will by that time



have fallen to a more conser-A company selling on a very

low ratio says the market does not trust the profits to keep flowing at their current rate. Sometimes we say that there is doubt over the quality of

Some companies, by their nature, command a lower ratio than others. You would not expect a mine, say, with only four years' production left to sell on much more than four times' profits. Think about it. In four years' time, there won't

Some people rely on forecast

A little knowledge can make the stock market child's play

stockbrokers, rather than those published. The resulting number is called a prospective price-carnings ratio, the one based on last year's profits a

historic one. And a mental short cut. It is not a strict analogy, but you might think about the earnings ratio as an estimate of how long the company is expected to be around in that form. What do brokers think of the lifespan of a business on 30 times' earnings? And one on seven? What the price earnings ratio really says is what the City thinks is going to happen to the share price in

DIVIDEND YIELD

THIS is the mirror image of the earnings ratio. It helps to compare how much dividend the company pays out, in contrast to its peers. The dividend is divided by the market price, after an adjustment is made for tax, to give a yield. This, published on the share prices page, tells you how much income you can expect for every pound invest-

ed in the company.

This time, the higher the price, the lower the yield. As the price falls, the yield looks more attractive - but beware, the price may be falling because the market expects profits to fall. In that case, this may be reflected in a dividend cut, so the yield becomes

British Telecom now sells on a yield of approaching to per cent, based on the current year's expected dividend. Ca-ble and Wireless, in the same business, sells on a yield of not much more than half this but C&W is a much more highly rated company than BT. Some observers think it will be the subject of a takeover bid this year. By comparison, the price-earnings multiple of C&W is about 17. for the current year, while that of BT a more lowly 14.

Broadly speaking, a highly. rated company should have a lower yield, therefore, because the City thinks profits, and so dividends, will rise in future years. A company whose shares are on a high yield is a more staid business. But remember — too high a yield suggests the dividend will have to be cut.

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IF COMPANIES want to raise fresh cash, either to fund expansion or to pay for earlier mistakes, they come cap in

hand to the people who own them. That is, you. The rights issue is a way of issuing further shares, at a price attractive to investors. They buy them at that price, so raising the needed cash. The issue is expressed as a ratio of the number of new shares to the existing ones. Say your company proposes to create one new share for every five in existence, expressed as a onefor-five rights issue. If the billion, then it should

raising £200 million. raising £200 million.

In achial fact it will raise rather less. There are the expenses of the issue, all those City fees, including those for underwriting. This is a process whereby financial institutions agree that they will take the shares, if no one else will. That way, the company is guaranteed the money even if the market collapses before the shares so out.

the shares go out. The cost of underwriting is generally one and a half per

ety of City institutions - or £3 million, in the above case.

But the real reason why a one-for-five rights issue does not raise money equivalent to a fifth of the company's stock market worth is because the shares have to be priced more cheaply than the current market price. Again, think about it. You hold shares valued at £5 each. Do you really want more at the same price—especially as the price is likely to fall; following the normal laws of supply and demand, once new shares become available? But if you have not sold out

say, 450p each might seem attractive. This is how they are priced. The less attractive the issue, the bigger the gap between the market price and the issue price, the discount. Under the rules, you must be offered shares in proportion to your existing holding — with a one-for-five rights where you hold 1:000 shares you must be offered 200. If you do not want

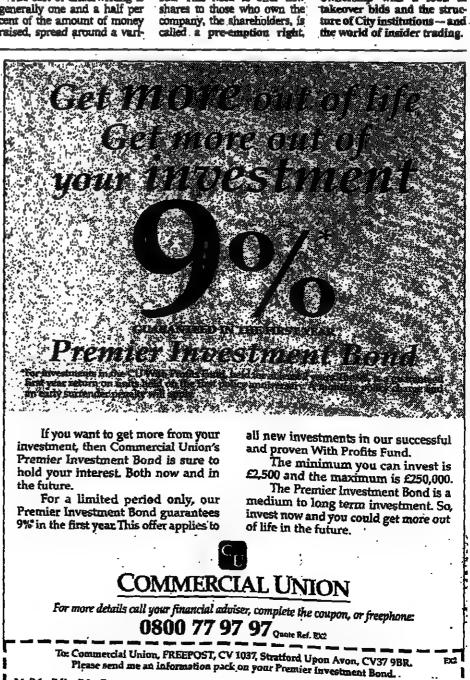
them, they go to those institu-tions who underwrote the issue. This need to offer new and it is the subject of huge debate in the City.

The only way to deal with rights issues is to decide, as close as you can to the deadline and according to your personal circumstances, whether you want the shares. Take guidance from your financial advis-er, or the financial press. Some technicalities. The

rights to the shares, that is the entitlement as a shareholder to buy them at this discount, are usually worth something. They will be quoted separately on the share price pages, next to the existing shares. These so the letters "xr" are attached to the price to indicate this.

If you decide not to take the new shares, you should sell these rights to them. This compensates you for any loss in value for your existing shares because of the cheaper. ones coming onto the market. If you do not sell the rights, the company will do it for you.

Next week we conclude our whistle-stop tour of share ownership with a look at takeover bids and the structure of City institutions - and the world of insider trading.



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WHAT HAPP

Investment trusts may prove a bargain buy

Trust fans could find best fruits in the quality funds, says

Nathan Yates

nvestment trusts are often shunned by the private investor because of their complex pricing system. But as Phil Calcott, a physicist, found last month with Tesco's cut-price bananas, pricing regulations can be exploited to your profit. Mr Calcott made £25 from his banana bulkhuying using his Tesco Clubcard. In the same way, some analysts believe investment trust valuing complications could make some funds a

good buy. The price of investment trust shares is determined by market demand rather than the performance of the fund. A current dearth of buyers means share prices have slumped below the value of assets, and on average investment companies were trading at a 10.8 per cent discount to net asset value last

Some analysts say the increase in discounting means that even traditionally premium-rated stock is now available at knockdown prices. The favourable rates could tempt an influx of institutional buyers in the course of the year.

"At the moment we are seeing the widest discounts for a long time in the investment trust market," said John Korwin-Szymanowski, investment trust analyst at SBC Warburg. "Discounts in the recent past have usually reflected the quality of the funds concerned, but now we're seeing some top performing funds at low prices. There's a gap opening up between

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Eye for bargain: Phil Calcott profited from Tesco bartanas:

traders are beginning to step in to exploit it. Sierra Trading, the American company, has bought quite heavily into the Kleinwort investment trusts recently, and I expect this to be part of an increasing trend.

"Last year was a bad one for investment trusts. There were too many new trusts launched. and you could argue there has also been too much money

placed abroad. But performance is outstripping demand, and the extent to which prices are lagging behind the value of assets in this market means that we must be near the bottom of the downward swing. Barring stock market disasters there should be an prices this year."

For the private investor the

possibility of a rise in share prices offers the potential for short-term profits as well as the long-term advantage of retaining quality holdings bought at discount rates. But those hoping to achieve this "double whammy" should be warned that not all analysts agree that the price rise will

ment trusts are still far too right in areas such as the Far East and in the smaller companies size range. Private investors willing to take the risk of backing a rise in investment trust shares should make their choice of fund carefully. Just 10 per cent 50 per cent of the industry's assets, so there are many small and unpopular trusts on

the market which may well be

priced at a discount for the

happen. The ever-rising stock

market and the forthcoming

election could spell turbulent times ahead, and some experts

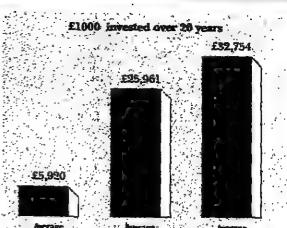
believe the majority of invest-

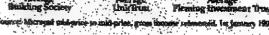
foresecable future. Would-be trust baggers should select quality funds which have a consistent performance record. Experts' tips include the Bankers Trust, currently priced at an 8 per cent discount. Other companies offering funds said to be underpriced include RIT. Finsbury, Alliance, Herald, Aberforth,

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NatWest Securities links up for the Internet

THE old world of investment trusts met up with the new world of the Internet this week with the launch of a Website dedicated to UK closed end funds. NatWest Securities, a leading analyst

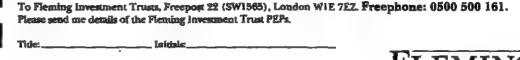
on investment trusts, has teamed up with Interactive Investor, the firm dedicated to putting financial information on the

can access 365 investment trusts with

daily updated data on performance, yield. share price, discount and asset allocation. . If you are thinking of investing in Europe you can rank all the investment trusts in the sector. Which are top over one, three or five years? Which are at a discount and could be a bargain? If you want your fund skewed to a particularcountry or sector, check the asset alloca-Tap in www.iii.co/uk/natwest/ and you : , tion to find where the trust is investing: For the sophisticated there is a separate

section on the 60 split-capital investment trusts. This will give you data on redemption yields, cover ratios and hurdle rates. You can even program the site to send an e-mail if a buying or seiling chance occurs. "It can be like the price in a newspaper reaching out and tapping you on the shoulder," says Sherry Count, managing director of Interactive Investor.

GAVIN LUMSDEN



FLEMINGS

The Investment Trust Experts §

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Bank of Scotland Banking Direct Instant Access Savings Account	4.65%	4.75%	5,13%	5.25%	5.80%	5.75%	5.825	5.75%
Abbey National Investment (90 Day Notice)	3.05%	2,05%	3.30%	3.30%	4.00%	4.00%	4.55%	4.55%
Nalifax Solid Gold (90 Day Notice)	3.00%	3.00%	3.25%	3,25%	4,00%	4.00%	4.50%	4.50%
Wootwich Premier 90 (90 Day Notice)	NEA	N/A	3.50%	3.50%	4.20%	4.20%	4.80%	4.90%

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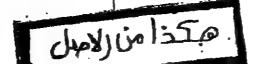
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مكذا من الاصل

Focus on growth of tax havens

with more than one third of covering accident, sickness the world's offshore private and unemployment. Ask at wealth estimated to have been your local Nationwide branch. wealth estimated to have been entrusted to Swiss financial institutions. Tax havens' popularity is still growing despite barriers imposed by high-tax governments, according to Tax Havens and Their Uses 1997, published by The Economist Intelligence Unit. The report gives fresh and updated financial and legal information on the world's leading fiscal refuges. It also looks at the issues raised by the use of offshore centres for the laundering of proceeds from offstore centres for the jaundering of proceeds from organised crime. Available, priced £95, from The Economist Intelligence Unit, 15 Regent Street, London SWIY 4LR (tel 0171-830 1007).

Nationwide is launching its own credit and gold cards. No annual fee will be charged and the new cards will feature low interest rates with a period of interest-free credit, plus extra benefits such as free Purchase Protection Cover. The cards will be available to new and existing customers from March and offer 9.9 per cent APR for transferred balances, 16.9 per cent APR for purchases, free travel accident

SWITZERLAND remains the insurance and optional pay-most successful tax haven ment protection insurance

trustees' report, members' booklet, and benefit statements. The guide is available to scheme trustees and com-panies free of charge by call-ing 0181-864 9906.

■ The Association of Unit Trusts and Investment Funds (Autif) has produced a free investor guide to Peps. The Pep pack contains factsheets explaining bond fund Peps, Peps and pensions — how a unit trust Pep can supplement retirement income - Pep mortgages plus the basic Pep rules. Pep packs are available from the Unit Trust Information Service: 0181-207 1361.

LIZANNE ROSE

INSTANT ACCESS ACCOUNTS	Account	Notice of term	Deposit	Rate	Interest paid
Portmen BS 0800 807080	Instant Acc	Instant	£100	4.70	Yly
Melton Mowbray BS 01664 480214	Postal Direct	Postal	£1,000	5.60	Yly
Northern Rock BS 0500 505000	Select Inst	Postal	£5,000	6,35	Yly
Bristol & West BS 0800 901109	Instant Post	Postal	210,000	6.40	Yly
		Notice			Interest
NOTICE ACCOUNTS & BONDS	Account	of term	Deposit	Rate	paid
Chelsea BS 0900 132351	POST-tel 20	20 day p	25,000	6.05	Yly
First National BS 0800 558844	30 Day Notice	30 day p	£10,000	6.30	Yly
Northern Rock BS 0500 505000	Select 50	60 day	210,000	6.50	Yly
Birm Midshires BS 0500 070707	First Class 90	90 day p	£10,000	6,55	Yly
		Notice			Antoroust
FIRST TESSAS (TAX FREE)	Account	of term	Deposit	Rate	paid
Sun Banking Corp 01438 744505	Fixed Rate	5 year	28,575	7.50	F/Yly
MatWest Bank 0800 200400	Fixed Pate	5 year	£5,000	7.45	F/Yly
nvestec Bank (UK) 0171 6260879	Premier	5 year	29,000	7.20	Yly
West Bromwich BS 0990 143668		5 year	S3,000	7.00	Yly

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	ANN	UAL INCOME	
	Rates as a	t February 13, 1997	
	Investment (£)	Company	Standard Rate (%)
1 Year	5,000	Financial Assur	5,30
	10,000	AIG Life	5,40
	20,000	AIG Life	5,55
	50,000	Financial Assur	5,65
2 Years	1,000	Hambro Assured	4.90
	3,000	ITT London & Edin	6.00
3 Years	1,000	Hambro Assured	5.15
	3,000	ITT London & Edin	6.30
4 Years	1,000	Hambro Assured	5.55
	3,000	ITT London & Edin	6.35
5 Years	1,000 3,000	Hambro Assured	5.60 6.70

GUARANTEED INCOME BONDS

	Investment (£)	Сотралу	Rate (%)
1 Year			
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	10,000	AIG Life	5.40
	20,000	AIG Life	5.55
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3 Years			
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	3,000	ITT London & Edin	6.35
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Birmingham Midshires	9,375%	109.73	8.527	100.17	1,000
Bradford & Bingley	11.625%	134.58	8,638	100.13	10,000
Bradford & Bingley	13.000%	150.41	8.643	100.20	10,00
Bristol & West	13.375%	155.82	8.595	100.34	1,00
Britannia	13.000%	150.41	8.643	100.42	1,00
Coventry	12.125%	141.51	8.530	100.75	1,00
First National	11.750%	132.68	8.856	100.25 100.62	10,000 50,000
Halifex	8.750%	105.59 140.63	8.287 8.163	100.02	50,00
Halifax	12.000%	162.64	8.378	100.00	50,00
Halifax	13.625% 13.375%	156.52	8.545	100.23	1.00
Leeds & Holbeck Newcastle	10.750%	127.22	8,425	100.23	1.00
Newcasus Newcastin	12.625%	149.17	8.464	100.45	1.00
Northern Rock	12.625%	149.52	8.444	100.14	1.00
Skipton	12.875%	150.70	8.544	100.48	1,00
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Building Societies				
Alliance & Leic 0800 412214	4,25	to 2250k	90	3% disc-1,3.9 + 3% cashles
Sirm Mid Mort SVS	3.21	£100k	75	4% disc-31.8
01344 394000 Nationwide	3.09	to £500k	75	2% disc-29.2 3.90% discon
0800 302010		(for 1 year
Banks	0.99	£20-145k	95	8.50% dlac-6
Bank of Ireland 0118 9510100	0.89		ä	3% disc-6 mi
Midland	3.99	2100k+	80	3.00% disco
0900 494 999				for 1 year
A SHAPES	77 T.	Park State	ALC:	
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	Interest	Loan	Max	
Lender	Interest rate %	alza	Max %	Notes
Building Societies	rate %	alza	%	
				6.99% (80-6
Building Societies Scarborough 0900 590647 Standard	rate %	alza	%	6.99% dac-6 2% 6min,0.5 6% discount
Bullding Societies Scarborough 0100 590547 Standard 0191 257 4123	0.25 1.49	230-100k	% 95 80	6.99% dac-6 2%-6min,0.5 6% discount 1 year
Building Societies Scarborough 0900 590647 Standard	nate %	9128 930-100k	95	6.99% dec-6 2%-6mm,0.5 5% discount 1 year 6.49% disc-6 1.99%-6m,0.
Building Societies Scarborough 0600 580547 Standard 0191 257 4123 Marsfield 01246 202055	0.25 1.49	230-100k	% 95 80	6.99% dec-6 2%-6mm,0.5 5% discount 1 year 6.49% disc-6
Building Societies Scarborough 0600 590547 Standard 1191 257 4123 Mansfield	0.25 1.49	230-100k	% 95 80	6.99% dsc-6 2%-6mm,0.5 6% discount 1 year 6.49% disc-6 1.99%-6m,0.
Building Societies Scarborough 0600 580547 Standard 0191 257 4123 Marefield 01246 202055 Banks Banks of Ireland 0118 9510100	0.25 1.49 0.50	830-100k to £100k \$25-250k	96 80 90	6.99% dec-6 2%-Gmm,0.5 5% decount 1 year 6.49% disc-6 1.99%-6m,0. 1y 6.50%dec-6 3% disc-6 mit
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0800 119955			-	for 1 year
Newbury 01635 43676	3,99	£15-150k	95	3% discount for
Lambeth 0171 928 1331	3.99	. £15-160k	95	3.25% discount for 1 year
Banks Bok of Ireland	0.99	£20-145k	95	6.50% disc 6 mths
0118 9510100 TSB Bank.	3,51	£15k+	95	3% disc 8 mths 3.74% discount
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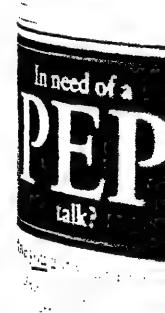
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Clearance delay costs money

From Mr M. I. Hutchinson Sir. Just imagine a world where you could access your deposit/current accounts making prompt transfers of funds between them to maximise the interest earnings ... The per-ception of faster settlement and automation of financial transactions - supported both through increasingly sophisticated investors and electronic access to accounts via telephone banking and the Internet — is very often no more than an illusion.

My wife operates a Chelsea Classic Account. Much is right with this account, but one major irritation is the ten to 12 calendar days required for cheque deposit funds to become available for subsequent cheque-writing.

She recently posted a deposit. Six days later she posted



drawn against the funds deposited). These payments bounced, costing her £20 from the payees, who passed on the incremental administrative charges. A third cheque posted three days after the initial

the typical three to four-day e clearance within the banking world and the longer clearance period operated by several building societies. This latter period allows for possible subsequent "receipt of notification of dishonour from their respective banks whereas banks routinely receive notification of clearance UK clearing bank system. The lessons are clear. High-

tions. Apparently, a distinc-

tion must be made between

er interest earnings offered on some accounts can easily be offset by unexpected charges if customers do not have a full understanding of their accounts' operations. Secondly, building societies are not al-ways the good guys when compared with banks. Yours faithfully, M. HUTCHINSON, The Arches Barn. II, Lower Road,

Insurance companies and terminal bonuses on endowment policies

made of the "maturity value of endowment policies" problem. A major obstacle of determining the potential final outcome of an endowment policy and, indeed, in attempting to determine the benefit or otherwise of a move, change or termination of an endowment is the fact that insurers will not provide a forecast of the

possible "terminal bonus". Can anybody provide a logical explanation, rather than a "legal reason" why insurance companies are elther unable or unwilling to provide a projection of what potential/possible/ "terminal bonus"

Since this portion of the policy can ultimately "make or

break" the investment, it would seem perfectly logical to expect a meaningful projection of both the annual and terminal bonuses. Annual bonus projections are permitted, within given limits and restrictions. Why is it apparently impossible to do the same for the terminal bonus, especially on those policies which have already been in place for some time, and

With the wealth of statistical data available today, alongside current technology and computing power, there is no reason why this particular portion of such an investment should be excluded from the general ability to provide a meaningful forecast.

therefore have a history?

I have yet to secure any reasonable explanation from

any source as to why the current position should be so. All that is given is waffle, hiding behind the facade of "we are not permitted to provide those figures ...", without any reasonable or logical explanation as to why. What does the insurance industry have to hide? Hiding behind "policy" or "the law" without being able to justify that policy, or provide a logical explantion behind the law is a sure sign that something is

She wrote to the chairman

of the Chelsea who, disappointingly but perhaps not surprisingly, offered her no

more than explanations of the

account's terms and condi-

Perhaps this is where our conversion "bonuses" will be coming from! Yours faithfully, LEE BROWN, 28 Highfield Road, Flackwell Heath.

Service lacking

Nr Bridgwater, Somerset.

Woolzvington,

From Mr R. Breckman Sir, Not once but twice in the past month I have asked Lloyds Bank to make a transfer from my deposit account to cover a cheque payable on my current account. Twice it has failed to carry out my instructions. This has meant my account going into overdraft, with the inevitable interest and charges, apologies and

I am now told the bank has no facilities to effect such a simple manitoring procedure, Whatever happened to service? Why are the banks so arrogant as to assume we do not need it? Yours faithfully

ROBERT BRECKMAN, Chartered Accountants, 49 South Molton Street, Wl.

Vote on Halifax conversion was made with incomplete knowledge

From Mrs J. Champness

Sir, You can imagine my surprise when I read your report on overseas members of the Halifax Building Society (February I) who would not benefit from the forthcoming conversion of the society.

This told me that Dutch residents were excluded from the bonus because of "onerous 'local laws regulating shares" which made it "not worth paying out to a small number of members", while others living in places as diverse as United Arab Emirates and

GREAT VALUE

PENSIONS

Singapore would benefit. I have never been informed by the Halifax that, as a resident of Holland, I am not eligible for the conversion payout.

I am particularly angry because the society sent the voting papers to me, which I duly completed and returned. Consequently, I believe that I was misled, as I made my decision based on incomplete

My vote would certainly have gone the other way, as I was a reluctant "yes" vote in

When I telephoned the Halifax, I was initially told that they knew nothing about the exclusion of Dutch residents.

I persisted and finally reorived a confirmation from the conversion department that we would be left out.

Although it is possible to change your address to one in the UK before conversion, so qualifying for a payout; it would not be possible for me to make such an alteration as I would be resident in Holland on the opoversion date. Furthermore, as my interest is paid gross, I can hardly claim that I live anywhere else.

JUDITH CHAMPNESS, Jan van Crieckenbeeklaan 6, 5671 ED Nuenen. The Netherlands.

Tax assessments

From Mr S. E. Boucher Sir. I can support the claim made by Mr L. How (Weekend Money letters, February 1) that half the income tax assessments issued by the Inland Revenue are wrong. In the past six years, I have received only one correct assessment. This year one of my sources of income has been taxed twice, once in a Schedule Schedule D assessment, notwithstanding that I sent a certificate of tax paid with my

annual return. Yours faithfully. S. BOUCHER. 60 Old Roselyon Crescent, St Blazey; Par. Cornwall.

Letters or information for Weekend Money may be sent by fax to 0171-782 5082. Letters should include a daytime telephone number. The Times regrets it cannot always give individual replies or advice and asks that original documents are not sent in. No legal responsi-bility can be accepted for advice in these columns and

Tel: 0171 351 6022 www.equitable.co.uk

independent professional advice should be sought.

In need of a

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...if not, now's the time to take unbiased advice. Investor Intelligence, one of the U.K.'s largest groups of independent financial advisers, can help you. Return the Freepost coupon or call

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Address
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Deep Prosection 1984: please tick box if TIM 15/2. PEP

PERSONAL PENSIONS of Do you need a personal

pension that lets you vary contributions without paying a penalry?

You may be quite happy with your pension. Until you try

Penalties for early retirement, penalties for varying contributions, even penalties for dying. You begin to wonder just whose pension it is.

You see, in order to pay commission to brokers and middlemen, some companies impose severe penalties on their personal pension plans, should you wish to make

changes.

Happily, The Equivable Life has never paid commission.

Happily, The Equivable Life has never paid commission. to third parties for the introduction of new business. You don't have to commit yourself to paying identical contributions every year. And, should you decide to retire early, your benefits would be exactly the same as if you had

chosen that date initially.

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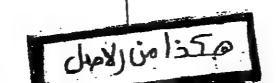
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1.25 Arian Spirit

THUNDERER

3.00 The Last Fling

RACING: O'NEILL'S REJUVENATED CHASER CAN TAKE ADVANTAGE OF FEATHER WEIGHT IN EIDER

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Ivy House appeals in Newcastle test

BY RICHARD EVANS RACING CORRESPONDENT

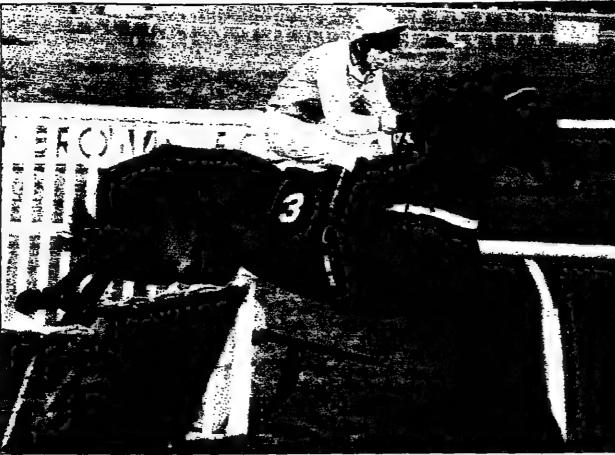
STOCKBROKERS often rely on the adage that "the trend is your friend" when buying shares and the investment guideline can prove equally profitable in big races -notably the Tote Eider Chase at Newcastle this afternoon (4.10).

A quick examination of the credentials held by winners of the extended four-mile chase during the past decade shows they all had good recent form. having won one of their previous two starts, most had been successful over 35 miles or



TODAY'S RACES ON TELEVISION

more, and nearly all had a light weight for this contest. However, the weight argument could be vulnerable today because this is a below standard running of the Eider, which should benefit those nearer the top of the handicap. The three to concentrate on are Seven Towers, who won over four miles at Kelso last month: Parsons Boy, the win-ner of six of his last seven starts over fences; and Ivy House, who had a wind operation during the summer and has regained his confidence over fences. The Jonjo O'Neill-trained Ivy House, second to Cyborgo a couple of



Mighty Moss tackles the Colin Davies Persian War Premier Novices' Hurdle at Chepstow this afternoon

seasons ago and potentially well treated, is preferred at generous looking odds.

In the opening televised race at Newcastle (3.00), The Last Fling is well handicapped but needs to improve his jumping. Easby Joker, twice a course and distance winner this term, was outclassed at Doncaster last time. Fiveleigh Builds has plenty of pace so the step back in trip on this stiff track should not be an inconvenience. His recent Ayr success was boosted by the subsequent victory of the second. Whisper-

Chief Minister is the clear form choice in the novice chase (3.35) but he is without a win for 18 months and comes from an out-of-form yard. Nooran might have beaten Bold Boss at Ayr 19 days ago but made a bad mistake in his first chase, Now 10th better off. he is the value selection.

2.15 COLIN DAVIES PERSIAN WAR PREMIER NOVICES

HURDLE (Grade #: £9,735; 2m 4f 110yd) (8 numers)

Livio has been raised 17lb for two victories and must show further improvement to follow up in the Gosforth Handicap Hurdle (4.45). Sea Victor has taken well to hurdies but may be better suited by flat tracks and preference is for the game Celestial Choir now that she steps up in trip.

At Warwick, a first attempt at an extended 212 miles should suit Beaumont (2.50), who won over two miles on the

Flat and looks potentially well treated. However, Lets Be Frank can win his fourth race this season after being far from disgraced in better company at Uttoxeter a week ago.

Mulligan is the proven performer in the novice chase (3.20), having won all four starts over fences, but the leading Arkle Trophy contender may find it difficult giving weight to Squire Silk. Andy Turnell's horses are in crack-

3.50 CLIVE GRAHAM NOVICES CHASE (\$3,513; 3m) (16 runners)

CLIVE GRANAM NOVICES CHARE (23,413; 301) (16
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1274-11 CYRCHOO 7 (D.E.S) (County Stored) of Page 7:12; 301) (16
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15 DREDO IS MARS 14 (b) (6 Ported) P Machine 7-11-1
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4.25 FLYOVER HANDICAP HORDLE

1980: PETE THE PARSON 7-11-2 M A FROMHAM (11-2) J OM 3 on

COURSE SPECIALISTS

JOCKEYS

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SEVEN To handical BOY (10) batter of mock in

ing form and the former high-class hurdler looked special at Newbury eight days ago.

King Pin is held in high regard by Peter Beaumont and, with his recent success at Ayr having been boosted by the subsequent victory of the runner-up, Paperising, he can successfully concede weight to his rivals, including Potter's Gale, in the Questor International Novices' Trial Hurdle G.55

Maamur, off the track since winning at the Cheitenham Festival, may be worth opposing with top weight over a trip short of his best in the Michael Page Pinance Chase (4.30).

Nap: AN CEXPRESS (2.45 Chepstow) Next best: Around The Gale (4.30 Warwick)

Senor El Betrutti is a bit of a thinker nowadays and Around The Gale looks well treated on his handicap debut. At Chepstow, the soft ground will suit Anzon in a competitive opener (1.15) and he is marginally preferred to Cadougold and Brave Tornado, who is well treated on his form of two years ago and should appreciate today's

longer distance. Bells Life is turning into a Chepstow specialist, having won all four starts at the Welsh track, and he can oblige again at the main expense of the mud-loving Air Shot. Boardroom Shuffle should maintain his unbeaten record in the Colin Davies Persian Way Premier Novices' Hurdle (2.15) and justify his Champion Hurdie entry.

3.35 Bold Boss 4.10 SEVEN TOWERS (nap) 1.55 Marello 4.45 Sea Victor 225 Main Mari GOING: GOOD (GOOD TO SOFT IN PLACES) TOTE JACKPOT MEETING SIS 1,25 NORTHERN RACING CONDITIONAL JOCKEYS HANDICAP HUNDLE 2.267: 3mt) (20 runners) 11 1-101 MONTEL EXPRESS 17 6:09 (New J Controy) K Balloy 5-12-0 W Weach (5) 12 63-2247 SCARRA 12 (CD.C.S.) (Protective R C) J Jefferson 9-11-9 E Collections 13 43/124-0 GMC ESST 77 (6.5) LI Michanies J J O'Neil 6-11-9 P Michanies 14 74-40 GMC ESST 77 (6.5) LI Michanies J J O'Neil 6-11-9 P Michanies 15 10/87-54 DIS DEEPER 75 (D.C.S.) (I Dadjacht) R Alban 10-11-4 S Registrant 16 10/87-54 DIS DEEPER 75 (D.C.S.) (I Dadjacht) R Alban 10-11-4 B Greaten 17 213-52 MARKETTER 71 (G.S.) (D.F.) (Mrs. M Resumbly 8-11-0 G Lee 18 00/10-00 BARKETTER 71 (S.F.) (S.Sevenson) Mas M Resuley 8-11-0 G Lee 19 00/10-00 BARKETTER 71 (S.F.) (S. Dadjacht) R Alban 10-11-4 S Greaten 19 10-00 BARKETTER 71 (S.F.) (S. Dadjacht) R Alban 8-10-9 C Michanies L Alban 8-10-9 Michanies L Alban 8-10-9 Michanies L Alban 8-10-9 Michanies L Michanies L Alban 8-10-9 Michani (£2,267: 3m) (20 runners) icap: What Jim Wards 9-10, Danifoolab 9-8, Sid Path 9-2, Adamptoidear 9-2, Air Sican 8-4. SETTING: 4-1 Months Exposus, 5-1 Script, B-1 Manufal, 7-1 Toddsh Todor, B-1 Jagalashara, 10-1 May Changes Life Class. 1990: CARLEY LAD \$-11-2 B Handing (7-2 far) & Reclands 25 nm 1,55 NEWSHAN HOVICES HURDLE (52,484: 2m) (19 numbers) OD NEWSHAM MOVICES HURDLE (E2,484: 2m) (19 6-0021 DERAMD 14 (0.6) C Stavench T Existing 6-11-10. 10 OZAMBO 14 (0.6) C Stavench T Existing 6-11-10. 11-11 MARELLO RF (0.6,6) (A MESCAR) J Fibryonid 5-11-10. 11-11 MARELLO RF (0.6,6) (Alls M Williams) Mars M Reveloy 6-1 00-66 BARTIN SCANP 25 (Alls M Williams) S Brockston 5-11-4. 10 CHASHO GREAMS 22 (D Existance) C Genet 6-11-4. 11-11 CHASHO RF (SANCER FIRE 11 (B T 5-11-4. 11-11 CHASHO RF (SANCER FIRE 11 (B T 5-11-4. 11-11 CHASHO REPORT (SANCER FIRE 11 (B T 5-11-4. 11-11 CHASHO SETTING: 5-4 Mendia, 7-2 Duzzo, 5-1 Cumpo, 10-1 Geopal Song, 14-1 Fer Ahest, 14-1 Nigel's Lud, 20-1 Tagelle Lud, 25-1 Clients. 1996: CARCUS LINE 5-11-4 & Gueller (5-2 lar) N Embety 21 sm 2.25 LEVY BOARD MOVICES HURDLE (92,474; 2m 4f) (19 numbra) 1899: 60-RECHARL 6-11-10 M Dayer (11-6 to) J Jafanson 21 w 3.00 BBC RADIO NEWCASTLE BREAKFAST SHOW NAMIDICAL COLUME (28,557; 2m 4) (8 (18205) 118-005 BETTER TIMES AFFIOR 7 (0.0.5) (F. Bitgori) & Flicitoria 11-11-12 2511-25 VALLANT WARPIOR 14 (20.5 (6.5) (F. Saltard, M. Harmanner 9-11-12 UTE-11P EMSRY JOUCH 21 (20.5 (6.5) (F. Ordand) & Restaurett 9-11-01 1191-5 THE JAST FRIEND 14 (0.5 (6.5) (F. Ordand) & Restaurett 9-11-01 1191-5 THE JAST FRIEND 14 (0.5 (6.5) (M. Jackson) MAS South 7-11-3 1-25241 FRVE RSH DIELDE PL (20.5 (6.5) (M. L. Hamel) MSS L. Restaut 10-1 PPP-65P ALL THE ACSS 50 (0.6.5) (J. Machimus) J. LOTHON 10-10-13 1191-1191 (0.11) (1.11)

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1988: TLEOPCE 5-10-8 P 164m (2-1) Mrs 16 Reputsy 18 pm FORM FOCUS

TOM BRODE St 2nd of 9 to Sichweis Da Moulin lo 9-master handrasp burdle at Welherby (2n, good) with CSL ESTIAL CHORR each 3rd. LIVIO hard Lochwagrado 244 in 12-manter handrasp burdle at Caribis (2n 4) 110yd, good) with CDL PARTS (3b betwer off) 504 in 30-manter handrasp burdle at Caribis (2n 4) 110yd, good) with CDL PARTS (3b betwer off) 504 in 30-manter cape to be seen of 504 in 30-manter cape to be seen off 504 in 30-manter cape to be seen of 504

TRAINERS: S Kettlewell, 3 winners from 10 runners, 30.0%; J Jefferson, 9 from 31, 29.0%; Mrs M Reveley, 33 from 146, 22.6%; G Richards, 14 from 67, 20.9%; M W Easterby, 10 from 49, 20.4%. VEDORATO, 10 don't 95, 20.47%. JOCKEYS: P Nivers, 37 winners from 137 rides, 27.0%, N Barnisy, 7 from 44, 15.9%; T Reed, 13 from 86, 15.1%; R Garnity, 9 from 80, 15.0%, A Dobbar, 14 from 106, 13.3%; R Guest, 6 from 49, 12.2%.

☐ Cab On Target will run in the Foxhunter Chase at Cheltenham next month after winning at Fakenham yesterday.

EXCLUSIV

1.34.2

CHERSTOW

THUNDERER

2.45 Norzeno 3.15 Princeful

3.50 Cyborgo

1.15 Cadougoid

1.45 Bells Life 2.15 Harbour Intervol

The Times Private Handicapper's top rating: 2.15 BGARDROOM SNUTTLE.

GOING: SOFT

1.15 M & N GROUP HURDLE 68C1 (Limited handicap: £7,022: 2m 4f 110yd) (12 runners) D.J. Mediate 92 D Syttquester
C Liversiya
X Aizpura (7)
R Fernant

BETTIME: 3-1 Cadouguid. 4-1 Assum, 6-1 Home Counties, 7-1 Kadastrof, 6-1 Stotto Dermigs. 18-1 Mourbs. Exam Cornect 14-1 colors 1990; THENCHE TWICE 7-10-7 M A Fitzgereld (9-1) N Henderste 10 cm FORM FOCUS

HOME COURTIES about 18 Ah or 8 to Space Tarcher or grade in Frighting Fifth bundless hundle at immediate the property of the p

1.45 FLEDGLING CHASE (£6,775 2m 3f 110yd) (5 runners)

BBC1 121-6P NAITHEN LAD 28 (C.S.) (J. Sham) Mrs. J. Plonen, B-11-12. R Favrind
12-1631 BELLS LIFE 14 (CD,G.S) (R Gobs) P Hobbs 8-11-3. G Torrney
66025 MORTECOT 26 (BF.S) (M Common) S Majder 8-11-3. B Feature
123221- AR SHOT 286 (K.S.) Mrs. P Protecting () Medicine 7-11-4 N. Johnson
4-12351 COOLREE 10 (B.F.6.5) (B Western) P Nichols 9-11-0. D Indigension

BETTRIG: 7-4 Bets Life, 9-4 Nahthen Lad, 7-2 Av Shot, 6-1 Mantecot, 10-1 Cooker 1996, KINGS CHERRY 8-11-4 B Pound (10-11 R Boother 3 rap FORM FOCUS

NANTHERI LAD but he Mulispan & in the grade |
12-moret Sun Allevince Nance Classe at CaptionJun Con 11, good to soft March 96 BELLS LEFE
total Seek The Falth 11 in 11-more transferance charabeat Con 3 110pd good) MONTECOT 1/4/ and of
10 to See Visitor as harden buttler at Nampton (cm.)

Selections SeeLLS LEFE

BETTING: 6-4 Boardroom Stuffe, 3-1 Mighty Most, 4-1 Marching Musics, 7-1 Lagran Bridge, 8-1 Husband Island, Falkling The Facts, 14-1 others. 1890; JET RULES (-11-6 W Harston (6-1) Mex J Phops 15 no FORM FOCUS MARCHOOM MAPPLE has Polled's Cale 1144 in 12-rounce covide terrelicing formula at Cheffenham (Can 11, ground). AMACHOE MARCHES test Apriler Can 154 in 5-states season handle at Minesch (Can 6 11664) in 15-states season handle at Minesch (Can 6 11664) in 15-states season handle at Minesch (Can 6 11664) in 15-states season handle at Minesch (Can 6 11664) in 15-states season handle at Minesch basis had handle hand 2.45 ASKRIELDS FARM BANDICAP INAME (£3,716: 3m 2f 110yd) (16 rumers)

| Telegraph | Tele Long hundleng: Glaugerif Shf 9-12, Paraptisor Photo 9-8, Scotby 9-7, Spbt Lord 7-6
BETTING: 7-2 Entholf, 4-1 Minesonic, 9-2 Budderof, 6-1 My Beated, Die Montenes Comi, 7-1 Elimpsoff GM, RS-1 cliess. 1900: PLEABURE SHARED 8-41-5 R Outmody (7-1) P Holio 18 mm TRAINERS Master Oats makes return MASTER OATS, the 1995 Cheltenham Gold Cup winner, faces four other Martell Grand National hopefuls when he makes a tour other Martell Grand National hopefuls when he makes a belated reappearance at Punchestown tomorrow. The Kim Bailey-trained gelding, off the track for a year since finishing second to Imperial Call in the Hennessy Cognac Gold Cup at Leopardstown, carries top weight of 12st in the Ericsson GSM Grand National Trial. Master Oats will be reunited with Norman Williamson, who is having his first ride for Kim Bailey since he split with the trainer last year.

10 FAT1-41 GHENTINE 15 (C.S.) (L. Norbur) A Tusted 9-11-40 L. 11 13/27/P TOP BRASS 22 (S) (Top Brass Partens) A Balley 3-10-6 L. 12 13/27/P TOP BRASS 22 (S) (Top Brass Partens) A Balley 3-10-6 L. 13 31P-10-4 SPECAL, ACCOUNT 56 (F.C.S) (T Finish) C Barwell 11-18-0 P He 14 81-3885 HOLY STING 25 (BLOUS) (G Marcisters) New Stokens 9-10-9 Brass 3-31-9 C 15 11 SPACE CAPPA 224 (R.S.) (D Septembers) New Stokens 9-10-9 Brass 3-31-9 C 15 14-3864 SHAMARPHIL 59 (F.S.) (D Septembers) New Stokens 9-10-9 Brass 3-31-9 C 16 STINGS 4-1 Sharman 6-1 A II C Express, 7-1 Days Bray Plant: Spannings, 12-1 Hour To Talal Bray Summan 14-1 When 1-1 Bray Stokens 19-0 C C C C C C C C C C C C C C C C C C C	Mary (3) 1 Mary (3) 1
3.15 EHROPEAN BRIEEDERS FLAND INITIONAL HURIT NOWICES (Qualifier: \$2,514: 2m 110yd) (12 numers) 1 500-416 TOMPETOD 32 (CD.8F-S) (I Pacter) IN Trestso-Carles, 6-11-10	Heredyn I Hered Grandth Genedth Genedth Hered Frend Frend G Upton G Upton
1996: AMELERIOE 5-01-0 II Dussicolly (1920-30) Min S Williams 11 gas	



3.55 QUESTOR INTERNATIONAL HOWICES THAIL HURDLE (E7.100: 2to 4f 110yd) (5 reviers) 2.50 MICHAEL PAGE SALES AND MARKETING HANDICAP HURDLE (£2,434. 2m 4i 110yd) (14 runners) BETRING: Swins lawy Pre. 3-1 King Of Chapatel, 4-1 Potent's Gala, 6-1 Reductible Led, 14-1 inflament Position 1980: SMAPLY DISSEANG 5-11-12 L. Myer (2-1 lad) T Extentry 7 and (DRG PRI), best Paperbing 3. in 6-colour points:

portions GALE best Phy's Down 25th in 16best from A in 5-color best at color bards at colors from A in 5-color (Sn. pand to sell).

Solution (Sn. 110)d, good 10. Long bendicap: Finngan Free 9-7 Cettic Erzenici 6-1 BETTING: 4-1 Lets Bu Frank, 9-2 Houses Hawk, 5-1 Per Hoppinshier, 12-1 others 4.30 MICHAEL PAGE FORANCE HANDICAP CHASE

1980: ALLEZ WLEES 7-12-0 J R Kararagh (20-1) M Handeszo 20 pak

DOUALAGO best Punch's Hotel 141 in B-rustees handcap hards at Forthwell (2m 67 feer) May 95. WOODWEET Mand 141 Set in 18 fe We Mae et handcap basel et illustrees (2m 61 18) of we Mae et soil) on penulimate stert. March 96. LETS BE FRAM's best (2m 62 april 17 fr 12-rustees handcap handcap hand capitalin's Wish 17 fr 12-rustees handcap hand capitalin's Wish 17 fr 12-rustees handcap hand capitalin's Wish 18 fr 12-rustees handcap handcap hand capitalin's with 18 fr 12-rustees handcap hand capitalin's with 18 fr 18 POSOSS RED 20 20 of 10 to Supposed in months based, at history car conditions from the man and an examinate start. BEMANONI 4 20 of 15 to transact at moves beneficially have been 200, could be here. HIS FORDLESS been 1.000 came to the 16-cupier couples haveline at Windows (200 of 170)rd, public couples from the Windows (200 of 170)rd, public couples from the Windows (200 of 170)rd, public couples from the Windows (200 of 170)rd, public coupless from the Windows (200 of 170)

3.20 MICHAEL PAGE GROUP KINGMAKER HOVICES C4 CHASE (Grade IL 211,540 2m) (4 numers) UT-1111 MULLIGAN 27 (D.G.S) (Lut) Hants D Schulbur 7-11-12 F422-F2 ELAR CASTLE 14 (F) Christwert G Balding 6-11-5 1611F-D F.Wilder BSTRUCTOR 70 (F.S) (Luc) 1-[0] ? Walker 7-11-5 415-07 SCHIRE SELK 8 (F.G.S) (R Opton A Tomas 6-11-5 RETTING: 11-10 Square Site. 5-4 Meditigan, 6-1 Blaz Casale, 16-1 Physiq Institution 1996. ARCTIC KINSMAN 9-11-5 C Utention (11-16 to) K Texton-Comes 4 spe FORM FOCUS

INCLLIGANT from Charleston W to be 6-come graph of Charlest Carp Class at Languagement (2m from the Carp Class at Languagement COURSE SPECIALISTS TRAINERS A Magnete
If Wilderson
J Catoly
Ne M Ecoel
J R Kanangle
D Wess 150 120 164 58 15 26.7 24.2 22.1 22.6 28.0 19.7 713 196 188 176 174 158

TETTING: 7-4 Angust The Galo. 9-4 Southwestern, 3-1 Moneyer, 7-1 Spect El Salvett, 8-1 Source Presiding. THEIR OLD BRIDGE 8-8-2 & Close (5-1) A Torolt 7 cm FORM FOCUS ACCURATE text (Impation Missale It is bandoup state a Confincian (Sm 11, good in wall March Its ACCURATE THE GALE had Royles Sar 61 in march classe at Bangor (Sm 21 110yd, good).

Selection of the Confincian (Sm 21 110yd, good). 5.00 Michael Page national hunt flat race (\$1,028: 2m) (22) BETTANE: 3-1 Samuel Willbergein, 5-1 Land Feitey, War Pant, 5-1 Light No. Race, 19-1 River Dann, 15-1 cilius; 1990: 1009-1100 9-15-0 Mr. 7 (Danner (7-2 lay) F Dogume (Fd, 24 cm

11-CS1 | RING PM 21 (D.C.S) (L'Hachille) P Beamant S-11-12 | TREE OF CAMELOT 14 (F.C) (L'Hachille) D Mahaban 7-11-0 | F.22119 | POCINCLIFE (LAI 28) (S) (S Manada) N (Vision-Danies S-11-1 | TREE OF DATES IN (LAI 28) (S) (S Manada) N (Vision-Danies S-11-1 | TREE OF DATES IN (LAI 28) (S) (S Manada) D (LOI 4-10-1 | TREE OF DATES IN (LAI 28) (S) (S Manada) D (LOI 4-10-1 | TREE OF DATES IN (LAI 28) (S Manada) D (LOI 4-10-1 | TREE OF DATES IN (LAI 28) (S Manada) D (LOI 4-10-1 | TREE OF DATES IN (LAI 28) (S Manada) D (LOI 4-10-1 | TREE OF DATES IN (LAI 28) (S Manada) D (LOI 4-10-1 | TREE OF DATES IN (LAI 28) (S Manada) D (LOI 4-10-1 | TREE OF DATES IN (LAI 28) (S Manada) D (LOI 4-10-1 | TREE OF DATES IN (LAI 28) (S Manada) D (LOI 4-10-1 | TREE OF DATES IN (LAI 28) (S Manada) D (LOI 4-10-1 | TREE OF DATES IN (LAI 28) (S MANADA) D (LOI 4-10-1 | TREE OF DATES IN (LAI 28) (S MANADA) D (LOI 4-10-1 | TREE OF DATES IN (LAI 28) (S MANADA) D (LOI 4-10-1 | TREE OF DATES IN (LAI 28) (S MANADA) D (LOI 4-10-1 | TREE OF DATES IN (LAI 28) (S MANADA) D (LOI 4-10-1 | TREE OF DATES IN (LAI 28) (S MANADA) D (LOI 4-10-1 | TREE OF DATES IN (LAI 28) (S MANADA) D (LOI 4-10-1 | TREE OF DATES IN (LAI 28) (S MANADA) D (LOI 4-10-1 | TREE OF DATES IN (LAI 28) (S MANADA) D (LOI 4-10-1 | TREE OF DATES IN (LAI 28) (S MANADA) D (LOI 4-10-1 | TREE OF DATES IN (LAI 28) (S MANADA) D (LOI 4-10-1 | TREE OF DATES IN (LAI 28) (S MANADA) D (LOI 4-10-1 | TREE OF DATES IN (LAI 28) (S MANADA) D (LOI 4-10-1 | TREE OF DATES IN (LAI 28) (S MANADA) D (LOI 4-10-1 | TREE OF DATES IN (LAI 28) (S MANADA) D (LOI 4-10-1 | TREE OF DATES IN (LAI 28) (S MANADA) D (LOI 4-10-1 | TREE OF DATES IN (LAI 28) (S MANADA) D (LOI 4-10-1 | TREE OF DATES IN (LAI 28) (S MANADA) D (LOI 4-10-1 | TREE OF DATES IN (LAI 28) (S MANADA) D (LOI 4-10-1 | TREE OF DATES IN (LAI 28) (S MANADA) D (LOI 48) (S MANADA) D (LOI 48)

(£5,398: 2m 41 110yd) (5 runners)

FORM FOCUS

WARWICK 3.20 Squire Silk

1.50 New Im 3.55 King Piri 4.30 Around The Gale 2.20 Jet Rules 2.50 Beaumont 5.00 Light The Fuse GUIDE TO OUR IN-LINE RACECARD

113143 GOOD TIMES 13 (8F,F.G,S) (Mrs D Robinson) B High 12-0 ... Pacecard number: Stu-legare form (F — Int.) P — wanner. 8F — beaten bevomite in latest most, in pace up 1 — increased index. 8 — prough Gong on which horse has won (F — firm, great to clean; S — sidest up. R — retirent O — firm, hard. 6 — good. S — self, good to self, sidest (F int.) 8 — binders, V — vote H — the off (F — Expellaght, C — course writing () — weight. Rules place any allowance. The firmes distance writer. CD — course and distance.

GOING: GOOD

1.50 MEHAEL PAGE GROUP HANDICAP HURDLE (£4.150: 2m) (8 runners)

11121-5 PROGRAMICH 101 (D.S.) (Mr. H. Mills) R. Phillips, 7-11-10 M. Williamstein 122-334 CHROMITER GATE 14 (D.F.G.S.) (J. Hent) D. Michelson 5-11-7 A. Magnite 1400-535 THORRITOR GATE 14 (D.F.G.S.) (T. Bennett) T. Easterty 9-11-2 F. Carberry 9-6-1222. NOW MR. 31 (D.F.) O. Seventi S. Gollago 5-11-2 Michels Bennaca (3) 09-4797 (PROS.) CHROSS 14 (D.S.) (M. Hervey) A. J. Wilson 8-10-8 J. Cultory 917-1-79 DESCENTION OF DESCENTION OF DESCRIPTION OF THE PROGRAMM OF DESCRIPTION OF THE PROGRAMM OF

Long hamdicap: Geldings 9-12. BETTRIC: 5-2 New Jon, 11-4 Chicosan, 9-2 Fragmanch, 5-1 Thomby Gate, Soldingo, 16-1 Khay's Oway, 14-1 Sant Cel: 16-1 Decide Yourself 1996: GOLGHIGO 9-10-6 J R Kawaragh (7-1) G Price 12 nm

2.20 MICHAEL PAGE LEGAL NOVICES CHASE (£7,198: 3m 2f) (6 runners)

1 004-U12 CAPO CASTANEM 108 (F) (D Gris-Thomason) Alecs H Yangir 8-11-6. J Colleby 7: 2110-01 AET RULES 8 (G.S.) (Ad Sabonery Co Ltd) Mrs. J Parent 7-11-8. — N Williamson E 3 U-31113 AMPRISES MERSON 14 (G.S.) of Mally N Tention-Courts 10-11-5. — Art M Rimon 9: 292-65. THE BOOLEY MOUSE 22 (The Booley Sanch) Y Scarce 7-11-2. — P Carbony & 292-67. TUP IT ALL 1206 (G) (P Natrics) P Names 9-11-2. — D Wilshin 64 (42-113) CAROLE'S CRUSADEN 63 (8F.G.) (Mrs. C Septembri D Gandelto 6-10-11 A Magnise -BETTING: Evens Jet Rolley, 11-4 Mariners Mirror, 5-1 Carole's Crecatier 6-1 Capo Castamare, 14-1 The Souley PURSC 33-1 Tes N AR

1996, SEAUREPAIRE 8-11-6 S McHell (5-1) 8 Alms 3 rat

RACELÎNE NEWCASTLE 101 201 CHEPSTOW 102 202 WARWICK 103 203 WINDSOR 104 204 LINGFIELD 105 205 IRISH 120 220 FULL RESULTS SERVICE 166 IRISH LOTTERY RESULT

Fantus out to press his Festival claims

EWCASTLE

The same of the sa

BY CARL EVANS

A DARK horse for the Grand but it is unlikely Fantus's odds of 33-1 for Aintree will change. even if he wins by a distance. bookmakers will be represented at the United Services meeting, and evaluating the form will not be easy, particularly as the logical danger. The Bounder, who was running under Rules last season and was impressive on his pointing debut last month, heads for the South Pool Harriers meeting instead.

Fantus's main target is still the Cheltenham Foxhunter Chase. Only if he is 100 per cent after that test will the tenyear-old be switched from Richard Barber's livery yard to Paul Nicholls.

Barber, who is in great form, is delighted the rain has finally come, allowing him to run his brittle star. He is less enamoured with the organisers of today's meeting, who have failed to provide a restricted or intermediate race.

Bert Lavis, the canniest of trainers, is unhappy with some of the planning in his native Wales, where the season finally gets under way at the Vale Of Clettwr meeting today. "We then have to wait three weeks for the next meeting in Wales," said an exasperated Lavis, who is forced to double up his runners in

Lavis guided Jamie Jukes to the national riders' title last year, and the pair team up with Cedar Square in the men's open. Jukes also rides Radio Days and Trackman for the stable, but is in opposition in the restricted and could beat Lavis's Rosieplant with True

TODAY'S MEETINGS: Larraries & Ren-trews at Lanarit, 2m S of fown (first rece, 100), Clid Raby Hunt Caub at Witton Cestle. 5m W of Bishop Auchland (12.30); South Pool at Bishop Auchland (12.30); South Pool at Bishop Auchland (12.30); Sual at Lariani, 5m N of Amesbury (12.30); Vale of Clatter at Erw Lon. 10m N of Cermanther (12.00); Wasveney Harriers at Hoftern, 8m NE of Colchester (12.00), West Strope Drag at Weston Park, 4m NE of Shifhal (12.00).

RESULTS FROM YESTERDAY'S FOUR MEETINGS

Sandown Park Going: good, good to firm in places.

1.90 (20th .110 yr. https://doi.org/10.100/10.10 Going: good, good to firm in places

(HURDLES)

1.30 KING JOHN NOVICES HURDLE

4-5 Friendship, 6-1 Millionis Review, 7-1 Stanislannis, 8-1 offers.

2.00 KING JOHN NOVICES HURDLE

2.30 MAGNA CARTA NOVICES CHASE

(£3,340: 2m 5l) (18)

(Div II: £2,658; 2m 6f 110yd) (13)

(Div I: \$2,679; 2m 6(110yd) (13 runners)

2.00 (2m ch) 1. MISTER ODDY (D Fors. 7-2); 2. Lord Dorost (R Johnson, 3-1); 3. Thumbs Up (R Dunstody, 16-1). ALSO RAY 8-11 sex Certainly Strong (168) 4 sex. 131, 44, J King at Sarindon Tota: 24 50. DF-57-30. CSF 512-40. 27.30. CSF 212.40. 2.35 (2m 4f 110yd ch) 1, ARFER MOLE (J Osborna, Evens tav); 2, Eulogy (R

4.15 (2m 110yd hdle) 1, EXPRISSS GIFT (R Dorwoody, 4-11 hert- 2, Denda King, M Smith, 12-11; 3, Pedaskothernstal (G Tormsy, 14-1) ALSO RAN, 7-2 Stoney Valley (5th), 25 Bizze Of Song (4th), 56 Micky Brown (6th) 6 ran, 6, hd, 174, 19, dist, Mrs M Revotey st Salburn Tose E1 40; 61 70, 63-20, DF E8 00 CSF 05.14. 61 70, 63.20. OF E8 00 CSF 06.14.

4.50 (2m 1)/yd (list race) 1, DAWN
LSADER (6 Uption, 7-4 list); 2, Dawns 15
Cholos (Derek Byrne, 14-1); 3, Shabang
(Mr H Dunlop, 9-1) ALSO RAM: 9-2 Shale
Perry, 6 Intile Coumpin (Bith), 10 Countyman (4th), 14 The Prevation Farmer,
Zephyrelia (6th), 16 Strammor, 20 Crimbmon Club, Fire Opal, 25 Gower Stave,
Mester Pto (put, 33 Enforcet, 50 Tranderberd, 65 Shaet Lightning, 16 ran 13, 7, 3,
344, 144) Join at Wroughten Tota 23.30,
£1.50, £5.00, £2.40 OF; £49.20 Trec
£1.48 80. CSF £29.22 Placepot: £74.40.

3.05 HATCH BRIDGE JUVENILE NOVICES HURDLE (27,548: 2m) (12)

1.30 Friendship. 2.00 Sparkling Spring. 2.30 Sail By The Stars. 3.05 Mr Wild. 3.40 Big Ben Dun. 4,15 Deependable. 4.50 Hever Golf Diamond. GOING: GOOD TO FIRM (CHASE COURSE); GOOD

11.4 Sermus, 7.2 For Davin. 4-1 Hayanan, 7-1 Mr. Wild, 6-1 Ein Agopt Moss, 12-1 Fasil, 14-1 others. 3.40 FAIRLAWNE HANDICAP CHASE

1 1554 PLUNDER BAY 17 (F.S) N Hendeson 6-11-10 M A Fizurcald
1 1554 PLUNDER BAY 17 (F.S) N Hendeson 6-11-10 M A Fizurcald
2 PAME FAST THOUGHTS & (B.D.F.G.S) D Sendesto 10-11-4 D Fort (S)
3 UPSU BIG BEN DUR 11 (D.F.G.S) D Smoots 11-11-2. G Bradiey
4 328- SOUTTY FLAYER 328 (D.F.G.S) R Cartis 12-10-13. D Monts
5 2007 ZWANEZ 39011-17 (CD.F.G.) Mrs M Jones 8-10-9 Dook Byrne
5 3-PP ROVAL SAXON 12 (G.F.G.S) P Brusen 11-10-6 W Marston 7-4 Zarobeci Spirit, 3-1 Planeter Bey, 4-1 Fast Thoughts, 6-1-8ag Ban Dan, 6-1 Equity Player, 16-1 Royal Science.

4.15 STAINES HANDICAP CHASE

1937 THE CAUMRIE 14 (6.5) & Bailing 9-11-19 5 Booting
1937 THE CAUMRIE 14 (6.5) & Bailing 9-11-19 5-11 From (5)
6-21 HANNABAN YOUTH 17 (20.F.S.) & McCourt 9-11-10 D From (5)
4-15 TOO SHARP 22 (F.5) Miss H Knoft 9-11-10 J 8-4 Heustian Youth, 7-5 Sophie May, 5-1 Too Steep, 7-1 The Causarum, 6-1 May Player, 18-1 Journal Man, 17-1 Countries Part, 20-1 others

4.50 RUNNYMEDE HANDICAP HURDLE (23,340: 2m 51) (18)

1 188 LINELY ROBGHT 21 (60,3 Gillert 8-11-10 DOLETTE.

2 482 CALLEVA STAR 17 it Awar 5-11-3 M A Fitzpesald 2423 A-4P CRUSES COMPRICE 28 Rows 11-11-3 DO PSUBVERS 10 CONTROL 28 Rows 11-11-3 D Leaby 5-652 MONOCASAMN 88 (5.5) A Lorde 7-11-3 J Language 6 00-6 MySTIC COURT 80 A Tomed 6-11-3 J Robbers 6 00-6 MySTIC COURT 80 A Tomed 6-11-3 J Robbers 6 MySTIC COURT 80 A Tomed 9-11-3 J Robbers 6 MySTIC COURT 80 A Tomed 9-11-3 J Robbers 6 MySTIC COURT 80 A Lorde 7-11-3 M Reduced 10 -P85 VOLLPYALL 17 P Hodge 8-11-3 M Reduced 11 -858 RROGERS LADY 26 (85) D Sandoto 7-10-12 D Foot (3) Waterston 10 -P85 VOLLPYALL 17 P Hodge 8-11-3 M Reduced 12 U COMMANDE CHEED 11 IN Bubborn 8-10-12 M Mariston 12 U COMMANDE CHEED 11 IN Bubborn 8-10-12 M Mariston 13 00-4 COMPRTY TOWN 59 A Jones 7-10-12 M Phothy J Ryan 7-10-12 LISS ASSENT 88 (5) M Ryan 7-10-12 M MINUTED WATERS 15 SEE 28 Los 6-10-12 M CONTROL OF MARISTON SEE SEE 28 Los 6-10-12 M CONTROL OF MARISTON SEE SEE 28 Los 6-10-12 M CONTROL OF MARISTON SEE SEE 28 Los 6-10-12 M CONTROL OF MARISTON SEE SEE 28 Los 6-10-12 M CONTROL OF MARISTON SEE SEE 28 Los 6-10-12 M CONTROL OF MARISTON SEE SEE 28 Los 6-10-12 M CONTROL OF MARISTON SEE SEE 28 Los 6-10-12 M CONTROL OF MARISTON SEE SEE 28 Los 6-10-12 M CONTROL OF MARISTON SEE SEE 28 Los 6-10-12 M CONTROL OF MARISTON SEE SEE 3 LOS 6-10-12 M CONTROL OF MARISTON SEE SEE 3 LOS 6-10-12 M CONTROL OF MARISTON SEE SEE 3 LOS 6-10-12 M CONTROL OF MARISTON SEE SEE 3 LOS 6-10-12 M CONTROL OF MARISTON SEE SEE 3 LOS 6-10-12 M CONTROL OF MARISTON SEE SEE 3 LOS 6-10-12 M CONTROL OF MARISTON SEE SEE 3 LOS 6-10-12 M CONTROL OF MARISTON SEE SEE 3 LOS 6-10-12 M CONTROL OF MARISTON SEE SEE 3 LOS 6-10-12 M CONTROL OF MARISTON SEE SEE 3 LOS 6-10-12 M CONTROL OF MARISTON SEE SEE 3 LOS 6-10-12 M CONTROL OF MARISTON SEE SEE 3 LOS 6-10-12 M CONTROL OF MARISTON SEE SEE 3 LOS 6-10-12 M CONTROL OF MARISTON SEE SEE 3 LOS 6-10-12 M CONTROL OF MARISTON SEE SEE 3 LOS 6-10-12 M CONTROL OF MARISTON SEE SEE SEE SEE 3 LOS 6-10-12 M CONTROL OF MARISTON SEE SEE 3

2,819: 2m) (9) T Kent 2,819: 2m) (9) T Kent 2 0005 RDS CASTLE 9 (B.D.E.S.) R Hodges 5-11-10 J Reitlon 3 -030 GREEN LANE 9 (D.F.S.) J Kespth 9-10-9 D Signific 4 -340 LWDEN'S LOTTO 14 (D.F.S.S.) J Webb 8-10-7 S Parker (7) 5 181 MORE DASH THANCASH 9 (D.F.G.) Mrs. M. Janes 7-10-5 Daruk Systhe N. Marrian 8,114-4 7 213/ COLLISCUS IN 1997 | Best 4-10-0 | W F O'Romins (7) | Best 4-10-0 | W F O'Romins (7) | W Monton 9 -885 KELLY NAC 17 (CD,S) D O'Bonn 7-10-0..... 7-4 Merc Dash Transcash, 7-2 Albernian, 5-1 Stepheria Real, 5-1 Colossas (V Ronds, 8-1 Kelly Mer, 12-1 Lindor's Lotic, 14-1 olders.

COURSE SPECIALISTS TRANEPS: G McCourt, 3 winners from 5 numers, en.0%; C Brooks, 8 from 21, 28 pts, D Gardollo, 5 from 19, 26 3%; K Balley, 15 from 59, 24 4%, B Alechers, 6 from 25, 24 0%; P Hedger, 6 from 25 at 1%. MCCKEYS: M A Pitzgeraid, 8 winners from 47 rides, 17 Jth, M Hechards, 10 from 78, 12 pts; G Bearley, 4 from 32, 12 3%; P Holley, 4 from 32, 12 5%; J Tilley, 3 from 25, 12 Dth, J Ballion, 7 from 81, 11 5%.

Going: good, good to soft in places 2.05 (2m ladie) 1 Samenid to Pears, 100-30; 2, Donbys Gorse (5-2 law), 3, Bend Seble (3-1) 8 ran, 9, 31/2 Mass L. Saddal Tota: £3.80; £3.10; £4.0 £1.90 DF £4.40. CSF: £10 79, Tricast £23.39. 240 (2m 45:01), Bold Account (A Doober, 3-11; 2. Cospu Lane (7-4 p-lan), 3, K-bule (16-1), Real Toric 7-4 (-lan), 9 trat. No. 91 G Moore, Tote 24 (0, 13), 51 60, 51 40 DF, 24 30 Tee 28 00 CSF 57 86

DF. 24.30 Teor 28.00 CSF 27.86
3.15 (2m hole) 1, Almis (A Dobbar, 13-8
tav. Timanderer's near), 2, Dense Poort (9-4);
3, Good Vibos (7-4) 6 ren 5, 14, J
Francisch Teite 25.50 C2.80, C1.20 DF
24.60, CSF; 25.15
3.50 (2m 110yd cht 1, Duel Image (R
Gentiny, 6-4 §-twy; 2, Rebot King (11-2), 3
Potato Men (9-1) Montrace Forte 6-4 g-las
(h) 4 ren NR: Region Remose 2, 18 J
Fargeraid, Tota 22.10, DF. 23.30, CSF27.69 2.7 tel 4.20 (3m ch) 1, Ask Ma Later (M Foster, 11-2): 2, Rever Linshign (10-11 tav), 3, Majority Mejor (16-1) 10 ran, 16fc Crown Equanty 12, 81 Mrs S Brackburne, Tota 500, 51 80, 51 50, 52 40 OF £4.50, Tro 522.20, CSF £10.79

4.55 (2m flat race) 1, Mec's Supresses Neichel Bernnan, 3-1 fav), 2, Info The Black (8-11; 3, Thandespoin (9-1); 18 ran, NR. Royal Crip. 2, 354; F Marphy Tote: 52.0; 21.80, 92.00, CS.50, 07-910-30. The CRIS.36 (pan work pool of 1235 for camed forward to 4.10 at Newcastle today). CSF-226 72. Jackgrot; £10,673.50.

Fakenham

27 60: £1 30: £3.50, £2.50 DF £20.50 Tro: £53.50 CSF £50.71 Tro: £50.60 88
2.20 (3m 110/d chi 1, Artic Wings M Brennen, 11-2). 2, Whopers Designi (7-1). 3, Darron The Brave (10-3 tax) 8 ran, NR: Sounds Golden, 7, 191. 0 Brennen, 10-6 £7.20, £20. £1 60. £1 80. DF: £14.90 Tric: £7.20, £20. £1 60. £1 80. DF: £14.90 Tric: £7.40, £50. £160. £1 80. DF: £14.90 Tric: £7.40, £3.00 £160. £1 80. DF: £14.90 Tric: £7.41, 2, Carton (6-4 law); 3, Super Rapier (14-1) 8 ten. 5, £23. Mrs D Harre. 108. £3.40, £1.00, £1.70, £3.30, DF: £1 Bai CSF £4.87
3.30 (3m 110/d chi 1, Ripperco (W £3.40)

RACING NEXT WEEK

24.87
2.30 (3m 110yd ch) 1. Rippenne (W Marston, 4-5,tavi 2, Rolleston Black (8-1); 3. Cherter Lane (40-1) 7 an. 9, 151 N Gaspiete Tole 11.90; 21.30, 12.50 DF. 25.30 CSF 67.50. 25.30 CSF £7.50. 4.05 (2m.51 10)yd chi 1, Ceb On Target Ne 5 Sweets, 4-6 fev); 2 Anso (40-1) 3, Pro Bono (8-1), 10 ran, 141, 111 Mars M Paveley 7 tote: £160 £110, £780, £200. DF: 225.50 Teo £82.50 CSF £44.35

WEDNESDAY: Wowerhampton (AW, 2.00), Folkestone (2.10), Hexham (2.20). THURSDAY: Lingfield (AW, 215). Hurtingdon (C4, 1.50). Wincarion (C4, 2.05).

LINGFIELD PARK

2.10 River Seine. 2.40 Spaniard's Mount. 3.10 Begshot, 3.45 Superbelle. 4.20 Nopales. 4.55 Glow

GOING: STANDARD DRAW: 5F-1M, LOW BEST SIS

(EZ_843: 7T) (10 (MINDERS)

1 0983 (LANCASHRE LEGEND 7 (CD_6) S Dorr 4-9-13 ... A Daly 3

2 400- TUBGAMALA 138 (CD_f) R Ingram 6-9-5 ... D Sweamay 2

3 4303 (LAT BOY 9 (CF_6) & L Macze 8-9-6 ... M Batchelor (5) 7

4 1021 (MANAU STORM) 14 (CD_6.5) D Stratch Darcs 9-9-3 ... March Carlor (3) 10

5 /80- YERA'S PREST 357 (CD_6) Mins & Malloway 4-9-2 ... Sophic Million 4

7 -030 (RWCR SENE 18 (CD_6) S Ungli 5-8-4 ... G Faither 8

6 4632 PRIVATE FORMER 12 (CD_6) D Match 5-9-4 ... B P Landar (3) 5

9 -043 ASTRAL REVADER 11 (CF_5) M Sandress 5-9-4 ... P P Manay 9

10 0104 MITD DEBT 7 (CD_6) J Thatton 4-7-10... A McCardy (5) 8

2 Hand Scott. 4-1 Lancachine Lesand. 5-1 Lell Box 8-1 Private Finant. Asset

5-2 Haward Storm, 4-1 Lancachine, Legend, 5-1 Left Boy 8-1 Private Federe, Asset Immoter, 10-1 River Stone, Vera's Roys, 12-1 others

1 S-21 SPANSARY'S MOURT 9 (V.CO.G.E.) M Tomption 9-1 D Holland 5
2 4-30 HEVER GOLF DANCER 22 T Mangson 6-11. T Sponso 2
3-230 BROADGATE FLYER 17 (8) Mrs L Subbs 8-6 ,8 Whitworth 4
4-222 HEVER GOLF CHARGER 3 (87) T Mangston 8-5. S Sanders 1
5 -246 HEAVERLY MISS 14 (C.F.S.) J Bridger 8-2 ... R Malland (5) 2

2-1 Spanisof's Mount, 5-2 Hever Bolk Dancer, 7-2 Hever Gold Charger, 5-1 Broadgate Flyer, 6-1 Heaven'ty Miss

3.10 JULIET SELLING STAKES (\$2,175: 1m) (6)

1 8-81 BASSHOT 21 (C.F.9.8) 6 1 Micros 6-9-5 . 8 Withouts 4 . 4 . 1 Micros 6-9-5 . 8 Withouts 4 . 4 . 1 Micros 6-9-5 . 8 Withouts 4 . 4 . 1 Micros 7-9-5 A Whelm C3 8 . 3 . 40-6 DIRAM CARRES 11 (D.F.S R Percent 9-8-13 . 3 Sentes 1 . 2 . 200 STATISTICIAN 7 E.F. John Beny 5-8-13 . . A College 6 . 4 College 6 . 4 College 7 . 4

40 ROMEO CLAIMING STAKES

2.10 RED ROSE APPRENTICES HANDICAP

(£2,843: 7f) (10 runners)

(3-Y-0: £2,440: 71) (5)

Placapot: \$28,60. Southwell

FRIDAY: Southwell (AW, 2.25), Haydock Park (2.00), Kertguon Park (2.10), Wolverhampton (2.20) Wolverhampson (220) SATURDAY: Lingflistd Park (AW, 2.20), Doncaster (2.00), Haydock, Park (BBC, 1.15), Kempton Park (C4, 1.55), Musselburgh (2.10) · Flat meetings in bold

4.40 (2m hdie) 1, Kintawi (P Niven 13-8 faxi: 2, Ayder (16-1), 3, Lord McMurrough (7-2), 8 rein 10l. 2l. T Donnelly Tote: 62.20. \$1.80, \$3.20 DF \$14-10 CSF \$22.55

Going: standard 2.10 (2m) 1, Masser Foodbroker (D R McCabe, 7-4 tay): 2, La Menorquina (6-1); 3, Mepergo (11-1) 9 ran Sh hd. 141 W Musson Tote (27.70: 51 10 12.20, 53 30 DF: 05 40, Tino 548 10 CSF (11 88 Tricasi, 684.50

Tricasi. £84.50
2.45 (Im) 1. Sarasi (I. Chamock, 7-1), 2. Fambo Watzer (4-1); 31, Northern Fan (14-1), 31, Whotherisharery (23-1), Joseph e Wine 2-1 bay 14 nm 14, 334, M Camacho Tote (9 70, 22 50, £1.40 Whotheriellisharery E5-70, Northern Fan E2-20 DF £2: 20 Trior Rambo Watzer, Whotheriellishary, Soras, C90.70 (part wore good of £116.26 carried toward to 4.10 at Newcastle today) Rambo Watzer, Northern Fan, Serasa, £12.60 (part wore good of £116.26 carried toward to 15.21 (23-23).

4.25 (1m 4) 1, Forzair (W Ryan, 7-4 tav); 2, Shufflecock (9-2), 3 Sharp Gazelle (2-1), 5 ran 2l, 1-sl J J O'Neil Toler £1.80, £1 10, £1 90 DF £2.90 CSF £9.27 No bid 5 00 (1m 3) 1, Szae Of Gold M Telbutt, 10-1), 2, Mutahadeh (8-11 tav), 3, Skelton Soveregn (11-4), 7 ran, 5, 2%, J Hetherton Tote: £11.60° £4.30, £1 10 DF, £4.50 CSF £17.17.

3.45 JACK & GILL COLE HANDICAP

(3-Y-0; £5,006; 1m 2l) (6) 1-122 MALERTY S (V.C.BF.G) F Asteroxy 9-7 M Windows 4
2 23-1 SUPERBELLÉ 42 (DD.S) M Janes 8-11. Entre O'Commat 6
2 23-1 SUPERBELLÉ 42 (DD.S) M Janes 8-10 D Malekeem 3
1111 GLOBETROTIER 22 (DD.S) M Johnston 8-10 D Malekeem 3
4 432 TIME CAN TELL 18 (S) C Murray 8-0 D Johnston 4
5 4-31 LAWN LOTHWISTO 18 (DD.S) M Johnston 7-13 T Williams 6
6 01-2 PINCHINCHA 45 (G) D Monts 7-11 S Bachelle 3 5-2 Maltony, 3-1 Globerollos, 7-2 Superballe, 5-1 Laren Lobero, 7-1 Postoroche 8-1 Torre Can Tell

4.20 DEMPSTERS DIARY MAIDEN STAKES

1 0x55 LOGE PERT LAD 9 J Bridger 5-9-10 ... F Norico 1
2 549- REPR 255 R Ingram 4-9-10 ... S Westworth 4
3 94 BLUES IMASIC 4 (BF) M Bell 3-8-10 ... G Familiar (5) 4
4 309- DelMAYS RISK 118 R Harre 3-8-5 ... D Brigge 6
5 5-43 MA VIELLE POLICIE 10 W 6 M Turner 3-8-5 ... T Strake 6
6 33-4 NOPALEA 89 (BF) 1 Neighbor 3-8-5 ... T Holizon 6
6 33-4 NOPALEA 89 (BF) 1 Neighbor 3-8-5 ... D Holizon 6
6 30-4 NOPALEA 59 (BF) 1 Neighbor 3-8-5 ... D Holizon 6
6 30-4 NOPALEA 59 (BF) 1 Neighbor 3-8-5 ... D Holizon 6
6 30-4 NOPALEA 59 (BF) 1 Neighbor 3-8-5 ... D Holizon 6
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6 30-4 NOPALEA 59 (BF) 1 NORICON 6
6 30-4 NORIC 5-4 Rhines Margic, 5-2 Mografia 5-1 Rollin, 8-1 Min Visible Possipia 10-1 Errora's Risk, 25-1 Logic Parl Lad

4.55 SWEETHEART FILLIES HANDICAP

COURSE SPECIALISTS TRANSERS: M. Bell, 8 westers from 34 runners, 29.5%; Lerd Huntlegdon, 41 from 182, 22.9%; L. Wortsagas Hell, 11 from 55, 20.0%; M. Johnston, 43 from 244, 17.5%; P. Yoskewey, 10 from 64, 15.6%; G. L. Woose, 48 from 32, 14.8%; J. JUCKEYS: D. Hustland, 29 winners from 117 rules, 23.9%; Emissa O'Gorana, 22 from 112, 19.6%; S. Whitevarth, 32 from 164, 19.5%; D. Markeown, 15 from 104, 15.4%; D. Hartlson, 31 from 217, 14.9%;

Trying Again, who has not run since finishing second in the Rehearsal Chase, will miss the Racing Post Chase next Saturday, and probably the rest of the season, after picking up an infection.

IN BRIEF Walsh gives

notice of extended absence

COURTNEY WALSH will not play first-class cricket for Gloucestershire this summer because of his commitments with West Indies, but he will return for six weeks to help to coach the county's bowlers. However, the West Indies captain hopes to play in one-day games for Gloucestershire at the Cheltenham Festival. against Lord's Taverners and Pakistan A, and will be back for the start of the next season. Jack Russell, who is on tour with England in New Zea-land, has told the county that he does not wish to captain Gloucestershire in the absence

of Walsh, but officials will try

to persuade him to change his

Sailing: Group 4, under Mike Golding, was still hanging on to her slim lead yesterday in the third stage of the BT Global Challenge from Wellington to Sydney, which is expected to finish this weekend. Golding had a five-mile advantage over Chris Tibbs on Concert, which has moved up to second place, as the fleet continues to enjoy fast spinna-ker-running conditions with many of the 14 yachts averaging more than ten knots.

Bowls: Jenny Davies and Betty Morgan, who qualified for three Welsh indoor championship finals this winter, had to settle for only one title — the fours. Having lost in the pairs final at Bridgend on Thurs-day, they and their Radnorshire club-mate. Shirley Gough, lost in the triples final yesterday to Marianne Acreman, Merle Cox and Joyce Thornton, 13-11.

Tennis: Greg Rusedski se-cured a straight-sets victory over Daniel Nestor, of Canada, in the second round of the Sybase Open in San Jose, California. The British No 2, who beat Alejandro Hernandez, of Mexico, 6-3 6-4 in his opening match, was even more impressive in disposing of his unseeded former compatriot 6-3, 6-1.

AN EXCLUSIVE COMPETITION

2-1 Saff by The Stars, 3-1 Monocasmen, 5-1 Brogson Ledy, 6-1 Jolis Absent, 10-1 Strolauson, 12-1 pilets.

BLINKERED FEAST TIME: Chepstow: 1.45 Cookse. 2.45 Dom Semoural, Sheer Ability, 3.15 Southernhay Boy, Lingileid Paris: 2.40 Ensatgete Plyer, Newscastle: 4.10 Cellich Boy, Windsor: 2.30 Strokesave.

Do you want to make a movie?

oday The Times gives you the chance of a lifetime - to make a movie, in an exching cross-media compension, in association with Faber and Paber Dillons The Booksteire, Sky Movies and Esquire magazine, and in association with Afri (GB) Lad, you can win an Arriflex camera worth E56,000. Arriflex cameras are the most widely used to make motion pictures and ourprize is similar to the camera cuit director Robert

Rodriguez used to make El Mariachi At 23 Rodrigoez proved anyone with artistic skill and determination can make a successful files on a low budget. Now you have an opportunity to be a film direc-

All you have to do as answer the five questions on our competition entry form and tell us, in 20 words or less. what your movie would be about. You will find the answers in Rodriguez's Rebel Without a Grew published by Faher and Faher and on sale exclusively at all Dillons The Bookstores, at the special price of £6. The book tells how Rodriguez made El Mariachi on a shoestring - and with a handheld camera.

First prize is an Arriflex 16 SR3, a state of the art. motion picture camera worth £56,000. The winner will meet Rodriguez and attend a film making masterclass given by the director himself.

There are ten runners up prizes of Sony Handy Cams plus Puji Film and signed copies of Rebel Without a Crew.

Complete this order form and post it to: The Times/ Re Book Offer, PO Box 6927, London E3 3NZ or telephone the Reb ____ payabla to FBS Ltd or charge my cradit/credit card ☐ Visa ☐ Mastercard ☐ Switch ☐ Delta ☐ Arnex ☐ Diners Club

Win an Arriflex camera worth £56,000



You will find the answers to the questions in Rebel Without a Crew. If you have not read the book, you can buy it by credit card on: 0171-510 0104 or use the order form left. You can also buy the special edition which has a competition entry form printed inside at any branch of Dillons The Bookstores. Post the entry form one also appears right) to: The Times Do You Want to Make a Movie Compension, PO Box 6885, London E2 8SR. The closing date for entries is Wednesday April 2, 1997. All correct entries will be judged by a panel consisting of Robert Rodriguez, and representatives from The Times, Faber and Faber, Esquire magazine and Arri (GB) Ltd.

THE MOVIE COMPETITIO

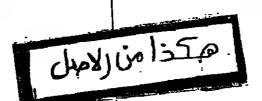
THE TIMES

Post this entry form to: The Times Do You Want to Make a Movie Competition, PO Box 6885, London E2 8SR. Closing date: April 2, 1997. The winners will be the persons who correctly answer the five questions and who, in the opinion of the judges, submit the most apt and original description telling us what their film would be about. Normal TNL competition rules

apply, available on request. 1. in which city are most of Woody Alien's films shot?

2. Robert Rodriguez was 23 when he made his first film. How old was Steven Spielberg when he made Jaws?

CHANGING TIMES



عكذا من الاصل

MIKE COOPER / ALLSPORT

RUGBY UNION

French confident they can march on against Wales

FROM GERALD DAVIES IN PARIS

TWO weeks ago, rejuvenated by victory in Scotland. no Welshman arriving at Cardiff Arms Park would have expected anything other than a victory from his team. However, that Welshman would have departed disconsolately after Ireland had defiantly proved him wrong.

This afternoon, the reverse is the case as Wales play France in Paris. There is widespread conviction of a French victory; there are no bets on Wales. The only hope is that the good fortune that deserted Wales last time will return so as - fingers crossed - to confound all predictions.

This is the last chance to lift the bogey. After defending their Parc des Princes fortress for 22 years against Wales, France will move to the new Stade Français next season. Whether in Cardiff or Paris, France have given Wales a haunted look over the last 15 years. For 12 consecutive years from 1983, France took the spoils. Weish luck has turned somewhat since 1994. They have won two of the last three; both, however, in Cardiff.

Today may present as good a chance as any to follow in Scotland's footsteps of two years ago, when they at last achieved a victory that had eluded them for 26 years. France, because of five injuries and the suspension of their prop, Tournaire, have been

FRANCE

J-L Sedoumy (Colomiera)

L Lefterrand (Boursoin)

R Dourthe (Day)

S Glas (Bourgoin)

C Lamelson (Brive)

P Carbonneau (Brive

C Califano (Toulouse)

J-L Jordana (Toulouse)

M Dalmaso (Agen)

A Senezzi (Agen)*

D Venditti (Brive)



CHAMPIONSHIP

from the team that defeated Ireland on the opening week-end of the five nations championship.

Other national teams, finding themselves in a position of having to replace six of their first-choice players, would present a moment of introspection and doubt. The French are only partly in this condition. If, in the past, they might have thrown their arms despairingly in the air, they do so only half-heartedly now. With the overwhelming success of their clubs in both European competitions, the Heineken Cup and the European Conference, they feel they have the kind of strength in depth to which the other

countries can only aspire. France have the admirable facility also of moving their players around in a variety of positions and to appear comfortable with the changes. Today, there are four changes in the back division. Lamaison

WALES

15 N R Jenkine (Pontypridd)

13 A G Betemen (Richmond)

11 G Thomas (Bridgend)

10 A C Thomas (Swansea

R Howley (Cardiff)

3 D Young (Cardiff)

C D Loader (Swansea)

S M Williams (Neeth)

4 G O Liewellyn (Harisquins

C L Charvis (Swansee)

REPLACEMENTS: 16 J Device (Car-diff), 17 P John (Portypridd), 18 H T Taylor (Cardiff), 19 P Arnold (Swan-ses), 20 L Mustoe (Cardiff), 21 G R Jenidra (Swanses).

J M Humphreys (Cardiff)*

14 I C Evens (Lienelli)

TODAY'S TEAMS IN PARIS

and Venditti, who are centres for Brive, are at stand-off half and wing, respectively, for their country. The latter scored three tries in his first five nations' match, in Dublin. Lamaison, who played in this position on tour in South Africa last year, is partnered by Carbonneau, also from Brive, representing a complete change at half back from the Irish match, when Penaud and Galthie held the positions. Such positional manoeuvres could prove vulnerable points for others to exploit. It would

the changes will expose the Wales are in a championship no man's land; one away win, one loss at home. The swing from euphoria to frustration was summed up by Terry Cobner, the Wales director of coaching. "We were not as good as people made us out to be after beating Scotland," he said. "nor were we as bad as we were said to be after

surely be the case were other

countries to be so selectorially

cavalier, but who can tell how

iosing to Ireland." What is true is that the problems discernible against Scotland were also present against Ireland. Too often, the players look to take the ball to the ground, where they are then careless in losing their grip on it and giving it away, the lineout remains uncertain and they have yet to show the mastery of winning the ball artfully at the restart. These are areas that should consolidate Wales's progress. In-stead, the team is unnec-

essarily exposed further. Any hint of negligence and France will purush them. Pierre Villepreux, ignored for years for coaching at international level, is now assistant to Jean-Claude Skreia. A large part of his attacking strategy is based on taking advantage of the mistakes of others, working on the principle that it is then that the opposition defence is most disorganised.

Control, as England proved in their four victories in Paris in the 1990s, is a prerequisite in the fire-cracking atmosphere. with aggression. These are qualities that will be called unon even more in conditions that are likely to be heavy after rain. Whatever the weather.



Brive inspire backward glance

Back in the early 1960s, in the beautiful forest region of France known as Les Landes, a small rugby club unearthed some exceptionally talented threequarters. Montois, the club in Mont-de-

Marsan, midway between Bordeaux and the Pyrences, produced three players for the national team who were, in any era, formidably skilled. Christian Darrouy. a great wing who was to captain France, and the Boniface brothers. Andre and Guy, who was to die tragically

young in a car accident, had a profound impact on French back-line play of that time. The effect is still talked about to this day in the cafés and bars of the South of France. Except that now, another club and a fresh players who have moved ea bloc into the national team

The influence of the successful Brive dub will become manifest at the Parc des Princes today when three members of its back line

recalling a glorious era for France represent France against Wales: the influential half

and Christ phe Lamaison, and the left wing, David Venditi. A fourth Brive man, Given the flair and dynanism with which Brive won the Heineken Cup last month, it is not too fanciful a notion that the linke club of the Corrèze may emulate the considerable influence na-

backs, Philippe Carbonneau

tionally of Mont-de-Marsan those years ago. Certainly, the flying men of Brive will find a sympathetic apostle to preach their creed at international level in the form of Pierre Villepreux. Venditti, whose scoring prowess has been exceptional in that the national team under Villepreux now seeks to emutate the pace of the Brive game against Leicester. "Yes,

play at the same pace as Brive," he said, "I think this French team wants to do it, but it is hard to achieve because you don't have the players together all the time.
"It is the trainer's job to

reflect on our style of play and not for us, the players of Brive, to impose our style on the team. We arrive in the French team and respect the objectives of the trainer. But people must not expect everything at once; it will take him some time to work with the

Perhaps, but Villepreux has, all his rugby life, es-poused the theories that Brive so gioriously demonstrated in that final - fast ball, creative back-line play with innova-tive angles of running, slick timed shrewdly and the working of the sprinters into open space. It is his life's work. For Venditti, 23, these are

heady times. A first appear-

Peter Bills on the threequarter talent ance for France last April, when they defeated Romania 64-20, a try-scorer for Brive against Llanelli and Cardiff in the quarter and semi-finals of the Heineken Cup fol-lowed by a hat-trick of tries for France in Ireland last

He left Bourgoin last summer for Brive to play in the Heineken Cup: Bourgoin were only in the European Conference. He embraced rugby from the age of eight in the region of Am, living at the foot of the ski slopes near the Swiss border. Skiing was denied to him, however, because his coaches recognised an outstanding rugby talent. Now, some liken him to Bric Bonneval, the former Toulouse player, and his solid frame, off lin and 13st 3lb. makes him a similarly power-

he runner. For Brive, he plays centre, for France, left wing. An anomaly? He smiled "I would hook for France if they ask me," he said. He is almost stocky enough to do just that. Wales should beware this new French connection.

Recurrence of injury sidelines **Becker**

protest record

FROM ALIX RAMSAY

BORIS BECKER'S hopes of climbing back into the top five of the world rankings and challenging for another grand-slam title suffered a setback yesterday when he pulled out of the Dubai Open before his quarter-final match against Goran Ivanisevic with a recurrence of a wrist injury. Last summer, during his

third-round match at Wimbledon, he snapped the tendons of his right wrist as he went to play a forehand. Initially, he was out of action for 32 months and, since his return, has withdrawn from three tournaments after the pain flared up again.

"It is a very strong pain in my wrist," he said. "It started six days ago, but I don't know why the problem came back. Usually, when I arrive at a new site, it takes a couple or three days to get used to the conditions and it hurts a little in my first round, but after that I am pain-free. This time, I have been taking anti-in-flammatory tablets for five days and it is still getting

On Thursday, Becker was unsure whether he would be able to play his second-round match against Sandon Stolle after his morning practice session. "By the evening warm-up, it was much better so I thought I would give it a try", he said. "Tonight, it was not any better at all."

Becker was due to play in Antwerp next week, but will now go back to Munich to see the specialists who treated him last summer. What worries him most is the fact that the pain appears to be in a slightly different place this time and he is planning to have a scan as soon as possible to see exactly where the prob-

The doctors told me that it would take a very long time for the injury to heal completely," he said, "and with the way I play, with a lot of spin and a lot of wrist work. I am using it every day."

Two other men who have had their problems with injury over the past few months suffered mixed fortunes. Jim Courier beat Wayne Ferreira 6-2, 7-5, but Richard Krajicek, the No 3 seed, lost 6-2, 6-2, to Jiri Novak, of the Czech Republic.

HOCKEY

Shaw shows stature for the big occasion David Hands, rugby correspondent, believes England's giant

full circle will not go down well with Simon Shaw. There have been too many punctures along the way for the Bristol lock forward to gaze into the future with full confidence, yet there is no denying that Africa, where he was born and where his representative playing career took a giant leap forward, may see him back this year - if the selectors of the British Isles party to tour there this sum-

REPLACEMENTS: 16 S Viers (Brive), 17 D Aucagne (Pau), 18 G Accosterry (Bögles-Bordeaud, 19 O Magne (Dex), 20 P Triep-Capdevielle (Pau), 21 M de Rougemont (Toulon).

mer think fit. Shaw learnt the hard way the pitfalls of professional sport, even when still an amateur. That his internationai career is now burgeoning -a fourth England cap beckons against Ireland at Lansdowne Road today - does not mean that he forgets entirely a 1995 that brought him, literally, to

his knees. It was bad enough that medial ligaments damaged during his third A international, against Italy, in February of that year proved enough to remove him from the World Cup squad that travelled in the summer to South Africa; in November, a double dislocation of the left ankle, suffered while playing for Bristol against Transvaal, threatened to erase a promising career

That his shin bone was broken and sundry ligaments and tendons ruptured only added to the gruesome mess

would have predicted that, almost exactly a year later, he would make his international debut against Italy. Shaw was in no doubt that he would play again: the question was, at what level? The most demanding part was not whether the ankie would be right, but whether I could put 100 per cent into my game, make the tackles without fearing the ankle would go again," he said. "That was the

worst part. I came back earlier

than the surgeons predicted

and played a couple of games

towards the end of the season.

that his leg was in; few who

witnessed the accident, when

his leg caught in the turf.

but I was still holding back a During the summer, I psyched myself up to really go for it and it seems to have worked." That could be described as a modest understatement: Shaw and Martin Johnson could form a secondrow partnership as effective as any of those that have preceded them in English colours and provide the engine-room for the Lions, who have so frequently in the past relied on muscular English tight for-

Shaw, 24 last month, is a disarming man, the product of a diverse upbringing of which his first seven years were lived in Kenya before the family moved to Spain, where his sporting enthusiasms were



ming. Not until he was 16 and attending Godalming Sixth Form College did he come across rugby. Cranleigh Rug-by Club, where his friends played, whipped him into their first XV without so much

as a by your leave.

"I was lucky in that they had

a huge forward pack, so I

didn't stand out that much,"

Shaw said. He had not quite reached his full proportions of

oft 9in and nearly 20st (at least

he can now look his father in

the eyej. "I'm not one of those

guys who go looking for trouble — I remember once

playing against a former Scot-

a bit frustrated by my game — but I can handle myself."

sh international who seemed

He had to when he first

appeared in a senior England

shirt, on tour against South Africa A in Kimberley. Shaw

stepped off the flight as a

replacement for the concussed

Johnson and, scarcely 24

hours later, was pitched into a

contest against a side includ-

ing the combative Transvaul

lock, Kobos Wiese; sporadic

violence was the order of the

day, yet the English display

ty. Shaw rates it one of the most demanding games he forward has put a series of crippling setbacks behind him has played. The key thing to remember about Shaw is that he is an football, basketball and swim-

athlete, a mobile, ball-playing forward in the mould of lan Jones, the New Zealand lock, whom he partnered for the Barbarians against South Africa in 1994 — only bigger. "Early on, I found I had the ability to read the game, take the shortest route to where the ball was going," Shaw said.
"That, rather than speed, is

what mobility is about "If I don't get my hands on the ball, get into positions to take on other players or make tackles, then I don't enjoy the game so much. I don't play just to push in the scrums and jump in the lineouts."

Mundane though those chores may be, however, he does them well; playing against the New Zealand Barbarians and the world-class pairing of Jones and Robin Brooke in November taught him much, Pedro Sporleder and German Llanes were even more demanding when Argentina came calling in December.

The test of character which is the five nations' championship will continue his rugby development and, for now, the future

England A team read from flawed script

England A ...

PROM DAYED HANDS IN DOLLIN

SHOULD England's seniors offer the same generous start to Ireland today as their A team did at Donnybrook 24 hours earlier, they may find recovery slightly more awk-ward. Within 13 minutes, the Irish had scored 19 points and it was scarcely tactical finesse that dragged the visitors back

into contention.

The quick wit and application of planned moves was a joy for the men in green, but, as is so frequently the case -Ireland have won only one of these second-string meetings - they could not sustain the effort against heavier oppo-nents. In particular, they could not quell the activities of the English back row, which initially held their side together and then allowed them to expand.

Though ten tries were scored, this was a shapeless. inaccurate game that reflected little credit on either side, save for some notably individual performances - by McQuilkin and Walsh for Ireland, by Diprose and Back for an England side that, after overcoming the Scots with ease last month, were caught

Convenionac Mapletoit (4), Penelly goels: Mapletoit (2).

RELAND X: G O'Shea (London Irish, captein); D Crothy (Sarryower), R McCustlin (Larsdourse), K Reanna (Garryower), N Woods (London Irish); P Burte (Bristo), S Melver (Carryower); M McDesmott (Larsdower), G Waler, (Next-arryower); M Hurtey (Moseley), M McDesmott (Larsdower), S Jameson (S Mery's College), B Cassact (Belti), K Dewson (London Irish), B Crowlin (Garyower), Suche replaced by M Lynch (Young Munster, 76), Water replaced by A McKeen (Larsdowere, 76), Bristoley (Belty), N Greenstock (Waspa), W Greenwood (Leicester, Capter), D Lugar (Francours); M Mapletoth (Gouentsy), D West (Leicester, Lightoster), A Diprose (Saracers), Conventsy), D West (Leicester), J Mallett (Betti), M Core (Stephen), G Archer (Newcaster), A Diprose (Saracers), Conventsy), Toward (Selenand), Recent (Leicester), A Diprose (Saracers), Conventsors, Conventsy), Toward (Selenand), Recent (Leicester), A Diprose (Saracers), Conventsy), Reference F Archer (Mallet), Reference F Archer (Malle

A try in the fourth minute of injury-time gave Richard Governey the chance of a conversion which won Ireland the under-21 international England 28-27 at

SCOPIERS: Ireland Under-21: Tries: Wel-lace (2), O'Neel. Conversions: Governey (2). Paralley goals: Governey (2). Dropped goal: Governey. England Under-21: Tries: J. Worsley, Windows, Hopeman, Gustland. Conversions: Michigan. Gustland.

Cannock face injury worry for key match

CANNOCK have plenty to think about when they play Hounslow in the National League premier division tomorrow (Sydney Friskin writes). They have worries about a hand injury to Bob Crutchley, a key figure in attack, that will only be assuaged if he passes a fitness test before the match, and they will be carefully watching the form of Teddington, who lie only a point behind them at the top of the table.

Before Cannock and Hounslow take the field at Chiswick, a confident Teddington will play Guildford at the same venue earlier in the day. "We hope to make it nine wins on the trot," Neil Campling, the Teddington manager, said. He would settle, therefore, for a repeat of the last time the teams met, on October 20, when Teddington snatched a 5-4 after Guildford had pulled back a 4-0 deficit.

Old Loughtonians, with two goals apiece from Chris Bloor and Chris Gladman, won their opening game 5-3 against the Spanish champions, Aldeasa Valdeluz, in the European indoor dub championship A division in Cologne

Whichever team wins, the celebrations will go on all night. Luckily, so do we:

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worker. He offered players spiritual help during the 1995

World Cup and is now lead-

ing a Christians in Sport campaign to raise funds for

Go with the floe

Perhaps the most thrilling

sport in the world is ice fishing. You sit by a hole in the ice with a long bit of

string and, er, that's it ...

apart from the drinking, of

course. The hole is inside a

nice cosy hut, so it's not as

Everything was going according to plan as night fell on the 500 participants of the Georgia Fishing Derby on

Lake Simooee, 46 miles north

of Toronto. The participants

fell asleep, an essential ploy

in this grueiling sport. How-

ever, they were about to leap

into unaccustomed action,

bad as you thought.

RUGBY LEAGUE

Brawl clubs protest at record fine

By Christopher Irvine

ST HELENS and Wigan were fined a record £15,000 each yesterday, with half suspended for a year, for the brawl during their Silk Cut Chall-enge Cup-tie last Saturday that followed a high tackle for which Bobbie Goulding, the St Helens captain, is serving

an eight-match suspension. Both clubs are to seek legal advice over the refusal of a right of appeal by a subcommittee of the Rugby Football League (RFL) board. In a joint statement, the clubs deplored the levels of fine imposed and the fact that they have no apparent comeback."

In finding St Helens and Wigan guilty of bringing the game into disrepute, after studying a video of the incident, the report of Russell Smith, the referee, and hearing representations from the two clubs, the three-man committee said both teams had displayed a considerable lack of discipline and had caused

hurt to the game. Goulding's stiff-arm chall-enge on Neil Cowie, a few seconds before the half-time interval, sparked the brawl involving several players. The committee could have ordered individuals involved to appear before the disciplinary committee for separate punishment, but blanket fines on the clubs and an end to the judicial investigation into an unsavoury episode were seen

as appropriate. However, the clubs are unlikely to let the matter rest. They may find that the levels of fine are binding, but St Helens are to use their right of appeal over the duration of Goulding's suspension. Un-

less he wins a reduction, the Great Britain scrum-half will not be available to the Challenge Cup-holders until after the semi-finals next month: He will also miss the first five Stones Super League games, including the match away to Wigan on March 28.

The severity of Goulding's punishment was indicative of the purge on potentially dan-gerous tackles being carried out by the RFL. This included a six-match suspension for Steve Walker, the Batley full back, who was sent off in the Challenge Cup defeat last Sunday by Paris Saint-Germain, who also had Adam Peters, a forward, banned for one match for foul play.

Chris Whiteley, the Carlisle forward, will miss one match for fighting in the tie against Dudley Hill, who had Chris Hannah (butting) and Craig Horne (foul tackle) suspended for two and three matches, respectively.

Wigan are still having talks with Va aiga Tuigamala, but it seems certain that, by next week, the Western Samoa centre will be back permanently in rugby union at Newcastle after the comple-tion of a £1 million deal with the Courage Clubs Championship second division side.

Warrington are insisting that lestyn Harris, the Wales and Great Britain stand-off half, is no longer available to St Helens, although he is still for sale at £1.35 million. John Smith. Warrington's chief executive, said that Harris had been instructed to resume training because St Helens had failed to put forward an acceptable offer.



Janice Manson, left, the defending women's champion, releases a stone during her defeat by Jean Reid at the English national curling championships in Perth yesterday

Newcomer Wade beats storm

BEFORE thunder and lightning caused the suspension of play in the second round of the Dimension Data Pro-Am in Sun City yesterday, John Wade, of Australia, and David Frost, of South Africa, were safely in the clubhouse after rounds of 65, which equalled

the Lost City course record. A day on which only 78 of the 160 competitors managed to complete their rounds ended with Wade and Frost sharing the lead on 134, ten under par. They are two strokes ahead of Padraig Har-

rington, of Ireland, who added a 66 to his first round of

Wade, 28, a newcomer to the European Tour, had spent six years struggling on the Australian circuit before going to the qualifying school last November and winning his card by finishing third.

Frost's challenge was more predictable. Although based in the United States, he has won the Million Dollar Challenge played on the adjacent Gary Player course on three occasions.

In the Australian Masters in Melbourne, the halfway lead was shared by Peter O'Malley. a former winner of the Scottish Open, and Lucas Parsons with a 15-under-par score of 131, leading Tiger Woods, the pre-tournament favourite, by seven shots.

While the two Australians were carving up the Huntingdon course for a second time. Woods dropped shots at the 17th and 18th and finished two behind another of the tournament favourites, Robert Allenby.

bt A Foeler 6-3, 6-3; J Dalgedo bt E Lenart (Ser) 6-2, 6-3; Ouerter-Frais: Delgedo bt Milligan 6-1, 6-1; Richardson bt Spriks 6-2, 7-5; Van Ulfwien bt Lukko 6-3, 6-4, Presuley bt Stadling 7-6, 7-6.

MARSELLES: Mon's tournement: Find ioused: Second round: M Person (Second round: M Person (Second N Mair (Swe) 6-3, 7-6; A Chrestokov (Puso) 6-10 U Viscoli, (C2) 6-3, 6-3; S Bruguere (So) bi L Roux (Fr) 4-6, 6-3, 6-2; F Sentoro (Fr) bi P Kordo (C2) 6-4, 6-4 Querter-farmitis Bruguere bit Chrestokov 6-3, 6-2; T Enover (Swe) bit H Dreakmann (Gen) 6-4, 3-6, 6-1.

Survey gives Harding the cold shoulder

THE sporting world has produced a greater ogre than O. J. Simpson. A recent survey in the United States on "product endorsement effec-tiveness" — this is a country in which popular affection can be measured in fiscal terms - came up with a list of 84 sporting names. People were asked whether they would buy a product if it were endorsed by a series of

sports stars. Michael Jordan, the basketball player, was, as ever, top of the list, followed by a rather notably graceless basketballer called Shaquille O'Neal. And, down in 83rd place, was O. J., last week found to be legally responsi-ble for the death of his wife and her companion.

However, there is a place in the American endorsement hell still deeper. And who fills it? Why, Tonya Harding of course. Never mind death: Harding was part of the plot in which her fellow skater, Nancy Kerrigan, was whacked on her knee. Harding pleaded guilty to obstructing the course of justice and was fined and put on probation.

Silent witness

More on Tonya, who, though banned from amateur compention, plans to make a comeback skate in Reno a week today. She says that she was the victim of an abduction attempt, but somehow managed to foil it.

She told police that a bushy-haired man abducted her at knife-point outside her home in Oregon and forced her to drive her truck out into the wilds. But Tonya, no stranger to the notion of direct action, rammed the truck into a tree, made a break for it, dodged about among the trees and then doubled back to the truck and drove off -- leaving the knifewielder gnashing his bushy teeth in frustration.

"I have no reason to think it's false," Damon Coates, speaking on behalf of the Clackmass county sheriff, said, "but it would be poor investigation not to look at that."

Harding could not comment herself, because she is under an exclusive media contract connected with her Reno comeback. Now there's



On Saturday

Holy orders

Perhaps the point is that rugby league, even more than most sports, brings a player face to face with the need for prayer. For the sport is filled with religion. The annual Oxford v Cambridge University rugby league match on March 12 at Richmond will be referred by a Catholic priest, Father Geoff Hilton, who, as a long-term Swinton fan, no doubt understands the efficacy of prayers

to St Jude, Meanwhile, Bill Ashurst's career as an apostle of violence is long gone. A hell-fire player for Wigan and Wake-field, sent off 15 times for violence, he gave up the game when he got religion. He is

This column is proud to

announce that Australia

will hold its first sumo

verestling tournament in

Sydney on June 13 and 14. It

will be contested by 40

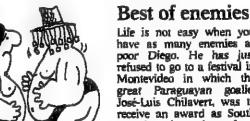
wrestlers from Japan, none

Hughes.

whom will be Merv

for a huge chunk of the ice broke off and drifted towards the middle of the lake, taking 300 fishermen with it. Winds whipped up to 60mph and blizzard conditions prevailed. Six military heliconters huzzed in for a

hectic mass rescue. Eventually, all the fishing folk were flown to safety. One. Tom Slade, said: "It was like the hut was moving. I had to wake up my partners and tell them, 'something is wrong Sergeant Denis Michaud summed it up to perfection: "It's all due to the recent weather."



Life is not easy when you

have as many enemies as poor Diego. He has just refused to go to a festival in Montevideo in which the great Paraguayan goalie, José-Luis Chilavert, was to receive an award as South America's best player from the hands of the great gerontocrat, João Havelange, president of Fifa.

"Let's be frank," Diego said. There were many people there I don't like. I can't attend a prize giving in which there is Chilavert. against whom I have a court case, or Havelange, against whom I've formed a trade union." Meanwhile, Diego has been asked to help out his old Argentina team-mate. Mario Kempes, by going to play in Albania.

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FOOTBALL. PONTINS LEAGUE Premise Sylvanor.
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Trophy: Humbarded 2. Smoother 19
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7-LP TROPHY: Semi-finals, except leg: Labcaster Riches 92 Chatter July 98 (Chester van 185-180 on agg; London Towers 90 Shelfield Sherke 77 (London with 154-146 on agg)
154-146 on agg)
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SWITZERLAND 20 110 good powder wom rain 414/2 (Snowing above 1,300m, rain below; white-out conditions) 10 90 tair heavy slushy snow 4.14/2 (Falling snow wet and heavy; colder weather forecast)

Atheriey 81-72; Boulon bt Cumbrie 98-72; Deaborough bt County Arts 87-85. Deaborough or Courty Arts 87-95.
M(ELSH LADIES & BLOOCH BOWLING ASSOCIATION: National characteristic Finals (at Opput: Singles: A Suffesional (Certaer) bt J Willis (Swentsen) 21-22. Paint: C Morgan and J Device (Opput) bt J Device and S Morgan (Rechonshire) 18-18. Fours: Recincrafter bt Rhondida 17-14.

CRICKET Tri-mation series Final

DUFBAN (South Africa won tous): South Africa bear trolla by 17 runs on adjusted larget after rein SIDUTH AFRICA

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S M Politok low b Praesid . L. Klusener & Kumble †D J. Filcherdson not out. R E Bryson not out......

Total (8 wide, 50 overs) A A Doneld did not bet FALL OF WICKETS: 1-44, 2-130, 3-130, 4-221, 5-242, 6-242, 7-244, 8-286. BDWLING: Shreith 10-0-50-1; Prated 10-1-5-2; Numbin 10-0-6-2; Article 70-60-0; Singh 10-0-63-2; Tendulant 30-18-1.

Extras (lb 5, w 2 nb 3) . TOTAL (all out, 38.2 overs)

Source: Ski Club of Great Britain, L - lower alopes; U - upper; art - artificial.

BOWLING: Pollock 8-0-39-2: Bryaon 7-0-47-0; Donald #1-0-45-3; Crossis #0-35-1; Rammer 8-0-45-2; Kalla 3-0-18-0. Umpires: R.E. Koettan and C.J. Mitchiey SHEFFELD: SHEED: Hobert (fired city): Soufi; Australia 397- and 100-5-dec (ii). Parting 165: J.C. Soudin 5-45; and 361-5; Porting 145-146 cau): Termans woo by fine wideles. Partin 165-165 cau): Western #44-165-165-173-3 (iii). P. Gooden: 125-165-164, v. Queersland. Quartellind.
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Ventor 59. H. Williams 4-68); Boland 28-0
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CYCLING TOLIR OF THE MEDITERIAN EARL FOURTH stage (La-Faro-La-Cliviers to Anabes, 214km); 1, M Strazzer (R, Roaletol); Sir Innia 24sec; 2, J Kraipou (Est); 3, S Barthe (Fir, 4, M Capolar (b); 5, F Balcielo (t); 6, J Capiol (Bel), all seme firme. Overall standardings: 1, E Magnetin (Fi, Festina) Strateging of the Caroni (Sec; 2, R Virenque (Fr, Festina) same strae; 3, D Roue (Fr, Festina) same st

HOCKEY EUROPEAN MEN'S INDOOR CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP: A Division (Cologne)*
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SUPERILEAGUE: Cardill Devils 8 Bracknel Baes 2: Manchester Storm 2 Sheifield Baes 2; Manchester Storn 2 Sheifiel Spelere 2 (OT); Newcastle Cobras 2 Ay Segment 2 (UT); Newscase Coulom 2 rays Scottish Engles 3. NATIONAL LEAGUE (WHL); New Jersey 4 Herthord V. Philadelphra 4 Ottawa 2; Chicago 7 San Jose 3; St Louis 4 NY Pangers 1; Phoenic 2 Colorado 5; Calgary 3 Editoridon 2 (CT); Los Angeles 4 Toronto 4

SESTRIERE: Algaine world chemplon-ships; Warners: Corribined stations: Lead-ing tenues: 1, M Galifzio (fil Luin 25.829sc; 2, M Coeter (Switz) 126 88; 3, H Gerg (Ger) 128:22: 4, K Secraper (Ger) 1:28:27; 5, C Borghi (Switz) 1:28:28; 6, S Brauner (Ger) 1:28:55

RUGBY LEAGUE SILK CUT CHALLENGE CUP: Fourth round raping: Hull 24 Huddersfield 14.

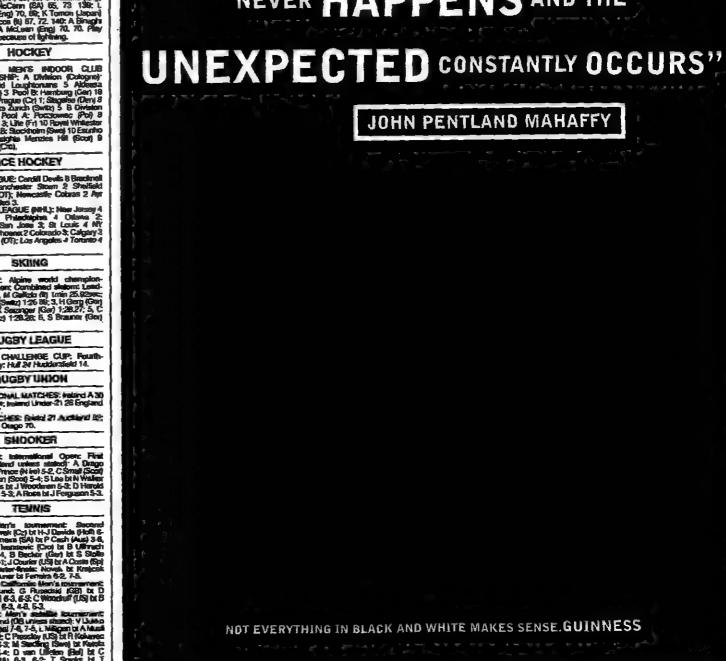
AUGBY UNION

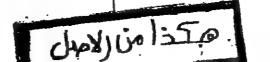
Built J Class, Customic Monta insurantentic Second round: G Russosisi (SS) to D Nastor (Carl 6-3, 6-5; C Woodulf (US) to B Sever (NZ) 6-3, 4-8, 6-3; C Woodulf (US) to B Sever (NZ) 6-3, 4-8, 6-3; C Woodulf (US) to B Carl (NZ) 4-6; C Pressis (US) to Russor (US) (Carl) 7-8, 6-3; M Secting (Swo) to Russor (Carl) 7-8, 6-3; M Secting (Swo) to Russor (Carl) 7-8, 6-3; M Secting (Swo) to Russor (Fig) 6-3, 6-4; D van (Ulldan (Ball) to C Haggard Sty 6-3, 6-2; T Soults to I T Ladding (Nus) 6-2, 6-6; A Richardon

"IN IRELAND THE INEVITABLE

NEVER HAPPENS AND THE







THE TIMES GUIDE TO THE FA CUP AND PREMIERSHIP THIS WEEKEND

حكذا من الاميل

Arsenal hope that Tony Adams, badly missed by England on Wednesday, will have recovered from his ankle injury. Most important of all, Dennis Bergkamp will be back after suspension to load the bullets for Ian Wright, no stranger to suspension himself, to fire — nd no doubt to fire a few on his own account. Paul Merson will doubtless be joining in the fun. But Arsene Wenger, the manager, really must improve Arsenal's on-field behaviour. Suspensions have cost them dear.

ARSENAL

DERBY COUNTY

Without a league win since last November, Derby have four home games within the next month to halt their slide towards the relegation zone. While declining. after much thought, to bid for Paul Kitson, who plays for West Ham United at the Baseball Ground in the Premiership today. Jim Smith, the manager, is hoping to sign another striker by the end of next week. Ward and Willems are injured and Rahmberg is playing for Sweden in a tournament in Bangkok.

ASTON VILLA

Villa's Premiership prospects are not too bright, after only one win in their last seven outings, but at least Fernando Nelson, their 25-year-old defender, appears to be building a bright future. The Portuguese culture vulture, a frequent visitor to England's castles and stately piles, owns a construction company back home in Porto. "Football is my profession but I wanted to prepare for when it is over," Nelson said. "I have settled well here but I sometimes miss my husiness."

EVERTON

漫 Everton's injury problems eased slightly during the week. with Joe Parkinson and Craig Short back in harness and Duncan Ferguson, Gary Speed and Nick Barmby all returning unscathed from international duty. All are in the squad, along with Short and Parkinson, for the match in Jersey this evening against a Jersey Select XL Southall may have to wait for the reserve match next week for his next appearance — if he does not become Oldham manager first. PB

SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY

his bitterness over the manner of his departure from Wednesday. David Pleat, the Wednesday manager, is keen to play

that down and, anyway, has other problems to ponder. David Hirst was not pleased at

being substituted for the reserves in midweek, and his shirt was removed swiftly

as he left the field. According to Pleat, though, the incident had little import. DM

SUNDERLAND

Peter Reid, the manager, is

The FA Cup tie against Bradford, Chris Waddle's new

club, has embarrassment oce-

ing from it, not least because of

BLACKBURN POVERS

Even the dark clouds that hung evening had one silver lining over Wembley on Wednesday the performance of Rovers Graeme Le Sanz, who completed a

remarkable journey back after an horrendous ankle injury. On Wednesday he was arguably England's most effective player. It was warming to see Graeme return for England," Tony Parkes, the Blackburn caretaker-manager, said. Parkes faces one selection problem: Fliteroft or Bohinen in

LEEDS UNITED

The row with the FA over Lee Bowyer's appearance for the England Under-21 team imgers on, with Bowyer awaiting a late fitness test to see if he can play today. Lee Sharpe and Tony Yeboah both played for the reserves in midweek and might be included in the squad, but the most likely change is the return of Radebe, probably for Ian Harte, one of Ireland's successes in Cardiff. The tie pits George Graham against his great friend, and mentor, Terry Venables.

CHELSEA

The inspirational performances of Gianfranco Zola and Roberto di Matteo for Italy at Wembley on Wednesday suggests that they may be too much for Leicester City at Filbert Street in the FA Cup fifth round the tomorrow, Leicester's chief hope fies in the possibility that Steve Claridge can unsettle Chelsea's defence. The Vialli stand-off continues, it will be hard for him to force his way back into a team in which Mark Hughes partners Zola so profitably...

LEICESTER CITY

Leicester have produced some of their best performances against the bigger clubs this season, but the FA Cup fifthround tie against Chelsea tomorrow could hardly have come at a worse time. The central spine of the side has been displaced by suspensions for Nell Lennon, Muzzy Izzet, Émile Heskey and Matt Elliott. At least Steve Walsh, the captain, is fit again, while Mark Robins, still transfer-listed but with a history of important Cup goals, may make a rare appearance up front. RH make a rare appearance up front.

COVENTRY CITY

Are Coventry's funds limitless? Not content with sanctioning a £23 million outlay on players in 21 months, Bryan Richardson, the club chairman, is now talking about moving the ground from Highfield Road. "We have not looked into it in detail but it is something we may have to consider, he said. Should the Nationwide League becken for City in the near future, as is conceivable, Highfield Road might not be so cramped after all. Instead, Richardson could buy some more players.

LIVERPOOL

Roy Evans, the manager, has not wasted time licking his wounds during Liverpool's enforced lay-off. Instead he has studied the transfer market and arrived at a couple of surprise names. First up is Garreth Whalley, one of the most accomplished midfield players outside the Preplished midfield players busine the rie-miership. The Crewe man has joined on an extended trial, with a view to a permanent move. The second is Pierluigi Casiraghi: the Italy forward is keen on a move to

For once United have no cup-tie

to occupy them, but thoughts are already turning ahead to next week, with visits to Highbury and Stamford Bridge likely to play an important, if not decisive, part in their pursuit of the Premiership title. They will be without both Cantona, who is suspended, and Scholes, his natural replacement, for the London trips. Giggs and Irwin are expected to have recovered from the injuries that kept them out of the midweek international in Cardiff. PB

MANCHESTER UNITED

MIDDLESBROUGH

While Emerson is suspended for the FA Cup fifth-round trip to Manchester City today, Bryan Robson, the manager, is still hoping to have Juninho in his side for the vital Premiership match at Manchester United on Wednesday week, even though Brazil play Poland that night. Meanwhile, the club has attempted to engage George Carman, QC, for its appeal against the Premiership's decision to deduct three points for failing to fulfil a at Blackburn in December.

Manche

3 Arsenal

WEST HAM UNITED

Baseball Ground today: Hartson and

Kitson will form West Ham's fourteenth

strike partnership of the season; since the 1-1

home draw with Derby in November, they

have taken six points out of 30; and if West Ham (22) had gleaned as many league points as Hartson (32) has disciplinary

ones, they would be minth.

BLACKEUFT, POVERSY

COVERTAL CITY

TICKETS: Seats available

CUP RECORD (name team): P 1, W 1, D 0, L 0, F 3, A 1.

HOW THEY LIVE UP

BIRMINGHAM CRTY (possible): 1 Bennett, K Brown, M Johnson, J Bass, S Bruce, B Home, C Holland, J Hunt, P Davlin, A Legg.

WREXHAM (from): A Marrioti, D Brace, M McGregor, B Jones, S Williams, A Hurnes, B Carey, M Chalik, C Skinner, K Russell, B Hughes, D Brammer, P Ward, K Connolly, S Walkin, S Mionis.

PROBLEDON'S

TICIQETS: Seas available

CUP RECORD; no previous triegling.

-Out the By Live Je

CIUEENS PARK FANGERS (from): J Sommer, M Graham, P Brevett, M Brazier, S Yates, A McDonaid, K Ready, J Spencer, G Peacook; M Hateley, S Barker, T Sincleir, D Dictrio, C Plummer.

JEEKS PARK RANGERS

As they contemplate the size of

the fee paid yesterday for John Hartson, a few more figures for

anxious West Ham supporters

plate before the vital match at the

Liverpool.

Cheises

NEWCASTLE UNITED

Kenny Dalglish is nothing if not determined, and that could lead to an interesting confron-tation with Liverpool, his former club. The Newcastle manager is keen to sign Danny Murphy, a young midfielder with Crewe Alexandra. Murphy, however, is already promised to Liverpool, and Crewe have spurned an offer in excess of £1 million from Newcastle. Dalglish, though, is not discouraged easily, and plans to up the ante to test Liverpool's — and Crewe's — resolve. There could be fireworks. DM

NOTTINGHAM FOREST

Stuart Pearce misses the FA Cup fifth-round tie at Chester-field because of suspension and will bawl out instructions from the dug-out for the first time since becoming caretaker-manager. Pearce returned from England duty to block the move of Chris Bart-Williams to Manchester City, but the deal could be resurrected next week when he attempts to extend the loan of Nigel Clough from Maine Road. Clough is ineligible for the Cup, but Dean Saunders has recovered from injury. RH

SOUTHAMPTON

The Southampton players and staff refused to go along with poor reviews of Matthew le Tissier's performance against haly. The club also joined Chelsea in denying that Graeme Sourcess would be significant. signing Gianluca Vialli, his former Sampdoria team-mate. When the two were supposed to be meeting in Southampton, Souness was in South Africa — a long way from Brentford, where the team played a match last night, with Jason Dodd return-ing after a December injury. NS

TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR

Woe, woe and sextuple woe. Injury and suspension rob Tottenham of Sheringham, Armstrong, Vega, Scales, Mabbutt and Nethercott for the visit of

Arsenal this afternoon. At least Anderton is fit, allegedly, to start a game for the first. time since November and Iversen should shrug off the groin strain that prevented him from playing for Norway Under-21s in midweek. Other than that, Gerry Francis, the Tottenham manager, has little to worry about.

+22

DWLWA

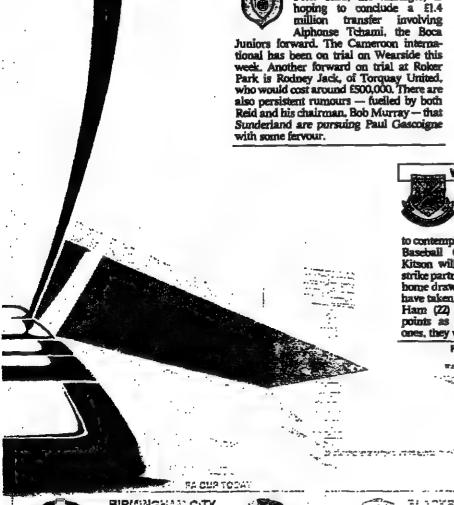
49 47

WIMBLEDON Dublin, Glasgow, Basingstoke – now Milton Keynes wants

Wimbledon, who take on Queens Park Rangers today with an unbeaten record against London clubs this season. Joe Kinnear, the manager, welcomed the break last week, and the return of seven players uninjured from international duty, as the club faces the fixture glut and media glare that accompa-nies success. After today, their next five games will all be broadcast live on

on, Flichard Hobern, Nick Szczepenik, ex: Julier Desbyrough

, Alexander



BIRMINGHAM CITY V WRENHAM

YESPETS: Sests available CUP RECORD (home team): P 1, W 1, D 0, L 0, F 1, A 0.

HOW THEY LINE UP BLACKBURN ROVERS (horn): T Flowers, H Berg, J Kenna, C Hendry, G le Saux, G Fitoroft, T Snerwood, W McKinlay, J Wilcox, C Sutton, K Gallacher, G Donis, N Marker, S Given, L Bohinen, P Warhurst,

COVENTRY CITY (trom): S Ogrizovic, R Shaw, B Borrows, P Williams, M Hall, P Telter, K Richardson, G McAllister, E Jess, N Whelan, D Huckerby, P Ndlovu, W Boland, A Evtushok, J Filen.

MANCHESTER CITY v MIDDLESBROUGH TICKETS: Sold out

CUP RECORD (home team): P5, W1, D2, L2, F5, A5.

HOW THEY LINE UP MANCHESTER CITY (from): M Margetson, L Crooks, I Brightwell, N Summerbee, K Symons, R Ingram, S Lomas, E McGoldrick, N Heaney, G Kinkladze, U Rösler, J Whitley, G Creaney, P Dickey,

MIDDLESBROUGH (from): B Roberts, C Fleming, N Cox, G Festa, S Vickers, O Whyte, R Mustoe, P Stamp, C Blackmoor, C Hignett, Junenho. F Reventell, M Beck, V Kinder, A Moore, A Miller.

LEADING SCORERS 20: A Shearer (Newcastle United). 17: I Wright (Arsena). 12: D Yorke (Aston Ville), R Fowler (Liverpool). L Fordinand (Newcastle United).

11: O G Solskjeer (Manchester United).

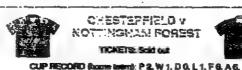
10: C Sutton (Blackburn Rovers), F Rese ati (Middlesbrough).

FA' CUP BETTING 2-1 Chebes, 5-1 Leads United, Wirnblodon, 5-1 Sheffield Wechest. 10-1 Middlesbrough, Notingham Forest, 14-1 Derby County, 15-1 Leicester, 20-1 Manchester City, 33-1 others. Odds supplied by The official internet site of the FA Carling Premiership is at http://www.fa-carling.com/

74 257 TONGT PORT

BRADESES OUT SHEFFIELD WEDNESDLY TICKETS: South models CUP RECORD: no previous meeting.

50% (AE) 1768 (5 BRADIFORD CITY (from): M. Schwatzer, R. Liburd, W. Jacobs, J. Dreye N. Mohan, A. O'Bnen, J. Pinto, C. Weddle, L. Dudouy, Edinho, M. Stallant D. Hamilton, M. See, G. Cowans, R. Steiner, A. Kienonya. SHEFFELD WEDNESOAY (from): K Pressman, P Atherion, S Nicol, D Stefanovic, D Walker, I Actan, M Pembridge, G Hyde, G Whittingham, D Hinst, R Blinker, A Booth, W Collins, O Trustlut, R Humphreys, B Carbone.



CHESTEPPIELD V NOTTINGMAN FOREST TICKETS: Sold out

HOW THEY LINE UP CHESTERFIELD (from): B Mercer, A Leaving, D Cair, T Curis, S Dyche, J Hewitt, M Julies, P Holland, J Howard, A Lormor, K Davies, A Morris, C Perkins, S Gazunt, A Mitchell, C Beautront.

NOTTINGHAM FOREST (Iron): M Crossley, D Lyttle, D Philips, C Cooper, S Chettle, C Bert-Williams, A I Haeland, S Gemmil, I Woert, K Campbell, S Saunders, P McGregor, S Guinen, C Allen, B Roy, N Jerter, S Bagnerayo, A Faste.



HOW THEY LINE UP

DERBY COUNTY (from): R Hoult, G Rowett, P McGrath, I Stimec, L Caralley, R van der Laan, A Asanovic, C Deilly, C Powell, A Ward, D Strandge, P Trollope, S Flynn, P Simpson, M Taylor, N Whight.

WEST HAM UNITED (from): L. Mildosko, T. Breacker, M. Rieper, S. Bilic, J. Dicks, K. Rowland, M. Hughes, J. Bishop, D. Williamson, P. Kilson, J. Hartson, H. Porlinio, S. Lazantike, R. Ferdinand, M. Bowen, F. Lamperd,

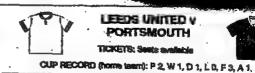


LE CESTER CATY Y CMELSE4

TICKETS: South available CUP RECORD (home team): P3,W0,D1,L2,F1,A6.

HOW THEY LIKE UP LEICESTER CITY (from): K Keller, S Grayson, M Bliotz, S Prior, S Walsh, I Marshall, S Wilson, F Rolling, S Campbell, M Robins, S Claridge, S Yaylor, G Parker, K Poole.

CHELSEA (from): K Hitchcock, S Clarke, F Leboeut, F Shicker, D Petrecti, E Newton, R of Metteo, D Wise, S Minto, G Zola, M Hughes, G Viell, E Johnsen, A Myess, P Hughes, J Monts, F Grades.



LEEDS UNITED V PORTSMOUTH TICKETS: Saute 1

9,

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HOW THEY LINE UP LEEDS UNITED (from): N Martyn, R Motensar, G Haite, D Wetherall, L Radebe, G Kelly, L Bowyer, M Jackson, C Palmer, A Dorigo, R Walace, B Deane, I Rush, A Yeboeh, L Sharpe, I Heste, M Ford, A Grey, M Beeney.

PORTSMOUTH (tram): A Knight, R Pathick, A Awtord, R Perrett, A Thomson, A McLoughlin, F Simpson, D Hiller, P Hell, L Bradbury, M Svensson, D Burton, S Igoe, A Dobson, J Dumin, A Whitbread.



DERBY COUNTY V WEST HAM UNITED TICKETS: Sold out



10-YEAR RECORD: 1-2, 1-2, 2-3, 2-1, 0-0, 1-1, 2-0, 1-1, 0-0, 1-0. HOW THEY LINE UP

TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR. (from): I Walker, S Cerr, D Austin, J Edinburgh, S Campbell, C Calderwood, C Wilson, D Howells, A Nielsen, D Anderton, A Sinton, R Fox, S Iversen, R Rosenthal, R Allen, J Dozzell, E Baardsen.

ASSENAL (from): J Luido, M Kaown, A Adams, S Marshall, S Bould, Discon, R Parlour, P Vieire, P Merson, N Winterburn, D Bergkamp,

WHEN TO WATCH ON TELEVISION

19.35pm BBC1 Musich of the Day (highlights)

11 mm Sky Sporte Gools on Sunday

30pm Sky Sports Bradford City v Shaffield Wedn igan BBC1 Laicester City v-Cheleez (live)

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FOOTBALL

Kamara tackles new career as a style guru

n Thursday, Litt-lewoods took the FA Cup to Bradford as part of its publicity campaign. It was the closest Chris Kamara, the Bradford City manager, has been to the trophy in 22 years in the game but with Sheffield Wednesday due at Valley Parade in the fifth round tomorrow, who

The idea of Kamara as a manager was not something that readily occurred in his youth, when his disciplinary record testified to enthusiasm and competitiveness rather than managerial qualities. Yet who knows who will make a good manager?

"As a young player at Portsmouth, I was George Graham's legs," Kamara said, "but I would never have dreamed that George Graham would become a football manager - not in a month of

As the end of his playing days approached, Kamara was preparing for a career outside football, some success on the after-dinner speaker circuit suggesting one alterna-tive. Instead, Bradford turned

He has taken to the job with instant success, taking the club to promotion via the playoffs last year. He did it, moreover, by playing some excellent football.

This season, the lack of a goalscorer has left Bradford struggling near the foot of the Nationwide League first division, but rising gates reveal that the football they play is worth supporting, as does Cup success, the win over Everton in the fourth round earning them the giant-killer of the round award.

The manager is already threatening to outstrip the player, who enjoyed a chequered career. Twenty years as a player, a marvellous career, but without really winning a lot," he said.

The longevity testifies to the character, determination and

a manager who is determined to

keep high ideals



competitive qualities that made managers as diverse as Howard Wilkinson, Dave Bassett and David Pleat, tomorrow's opponent, ready to find a use for him.

The best years came early— and late. At 18, his maturity was such that he was Portsmouth's penalty-taker in his first season; at 21, he was Swindon Town's youngest captain. "Even at that early age, I became a talker on the patch, and an organiser." He led them to the the fourth and third division championships. and to the semi-finals of the League Cup in 1979. "We were 15 or 20 minutes away from Wembley that day," he reflected ruefully.

Instead, it was back to reality - back to Portsmouth, to Brentford and then back to Swindon, which was the start of a trying time.



his Bradford team that in-cludes Chris Waddle, the Brazilian, Edinho, and Sergio Pinto suggests. A competitor himself, he believes in passing the ball and in talented

players. Those beliefs, however, were not in favour at Swindon under Lou Macari and the end of his second spell there was the low point of his career. A game at Shrewsbury Town in February 1988 got out of hand, culminating in Kamara flat-tening Jim Melrose, the Shrewsbury forward, with a punch at the end of the game.

emara was suspended and charged, the first footballer to be taken to court for a footballing incident. He pleaded guilty to assault causing grievous bodi-ly harm and was fined. It was sad, and uncharacteristic, end to his Swindon career. "At the end of the day, I did what I did," he said. "I got my punishment, took it and came back. I would say, a better person. His rehabilitation was to be

successful, as he went to Stoke City and then to Leeds United, winning the second division championship to reach the top flight at the ripe old age of 32.
"I was part of the Leeds team that went to the top of the table the year they won the League,"

"I wish I'd played for Howard Wilkinson a lot earlier. I learned a lot. I always wanted to play in a good side and going to Leeds I did that, with Strachan and McAllister and with Eric Cantona, if only for a week." It was the start of a late spell

In the top division and led on to Luton Town, where he met up with Pleat. Sheffield Wednesday are less flamboyant than Pleat's teams of old instead the hell-for-leather attacking side will be the Ban-tams of Bradford under their old fighting cock.

Gallacher enjoys striking revival

KEVIN GALLACHER

THE FACE OF



By Kevin McCarra

drawn 0-0 with Estonia cotland may have on Tuesday, but Kevin Gallacher has hardly been able to spare a moment for moping, not with his daughter, Megan, clinging to the dad she missed while he was away on World Cup business. Even without the consoling distractions of family life, gloom would still have had difficulty catching his eye.

The Blackburn Rovers for ward is fitter than he has been at any point since breaking a leg three years ago and the team's form is sturdy enough to suggest that they will beat one of his former clubs, Coventry City, at Ewood Park in the fourth round of the FA Cup this afternoon. Gallacher's current effectiveness rebuts the notion that he is one of those unlucky players whose career is written up, principally, in medical files. His bedevilled attempts to

reclaim health took place at a club that has also been through a tormented rehabilitation. For Blackburn, it has been as difficult to recover the prestige of 1995, the FA Carling Premiership-winning year, as it is for a player to rebuild wasted muscle. The sale of Alan Shearer to Newcastle United for £15 million last summer even drew accusations that the club was reconciled to becom-

ing nondescript again.
It had always seemed that each Blackburn victory was a demonstration of Shearer's willnower. Team-mates were



Gallacher has finally regained his form and fitness after three years of constant battle against injury

content to be overshadowed so long as the opposition was being overwhelmed. Shearer's appetite for goals devours entire penalty areas, too, and puts his partner on the margins.

"It was a case of ten men working around Alan," Gallather said. The other striker would probably sacrifice eight or nine goals a season to make runs for Alan, but we were all happy with that because it worked. He gave us self-belief. When Alan was taken away, it was very difficult to accept and by the time we did get our confidence back, it was too late for the manager.

Ray Harford resigned in October, to be replaced by Tony Parkes, who has the job on a caretaker basis until the expected arrival of Sven Göran Eriksson in the summer. If results were the sole criterion, Parkes, however, would himself have been a resounding candidate for the post. Blackburn recorded just one victory in their first fourteen Premiership games of the season, but there have

matches since then. Although he was appointed only on a temporary basis, Parkes has shown no inhibi-

been five wins in the ten

tion in exercising his judg-ment. Harford's 44.2 system is gone, replaced by a 4.3-3 system in which Gallacher and Jason Wilcox operate just behind Chris Sutton. Such are the intricacies of tactics, however, that the inclusion of an additional forward was a defensive measure.

"We were losing too many oals," Gallacher said, "and Tony wanted to get things right at the back while still keeping a positive attitude. Beating Liverpool 3-0 in November proved to us all that it worked and the three of us in attack were able to stop them from building their moves from deep positions." With his pace and energy

Gallacher can now cope with all the duties imposed by that system, yet regaining vitality was an ordeal after the broken leg. When he first at-tempted to make a comeback, the fracture reopened. Later still, there was a severe hamstring injury. "It can be very hard when you are trying to rebuild muscles you had nev-er known were there." Gallacher said.

The European championship was a godsend because it kept me going through the summer and I only had two weeks off for a holiday. By the time this season started, I really did feel ready for it." His professional life has

been battered by all the injuries, ensuring that he made only one appearance in the championship-winning season, but Gallacher is not even rucful. There is a placidity about him, as if he is determined to be happy with whatever the fortunes of football bring. For the moment, he finds satisfaction in a side that once more contains a healthy Graeme Le Saux and a revitalised Sutton.

At 30, Gallacher is also mature enough to recognise the fundamental incentives of the game. "The better the team does, the more chance we all have of keeping our places when the new manager comes," he said.

Even if the pitch this afternoon will be strewn with Scots, there can be no fellowship. "Coventry are a team of hidden talents," Gallacher said, trusting that they will remain concealed a little ATHLETICS

Civil war taking its toll of Arnold

By DAVID POWELL ATHLETICS CORRESPONDENT

LESS than three years after Frank Dick resigned as Great Britain's head coach, claiming his work was underfunded Malcolm Arnold, his succes-sor, has threatened to do the same. "I am thoroughly sick and tired of being in the jaws of a vice," Arnold said yester-day, referring to the dual pressures of the sport's politics and the needs of athletes and

"It is like trying to create peace in a civil war," Arnold said. "I have had enough of it all and I wonder how much longer I can stand it. The British Athletic Federation (BAF) needs stability and, unless that can be given. I would find it very difficult to retain an interest in working for the federation."

Uncertainty surrounds Arnold's £4 million-a-year application for National Lottery funding to aid development. Sir Rodney Walker, the chair-man of the English Sports Council, has indicated that, unless the federation resolves its internal bickering and improves its adminstration, it

may not get Lottery money, "I despair of anything hap-pening," Arnold said. "We do not seem to be any further down the line. It is depressing that they are standing there with money in their back pocket making threats to the sport. There have not been too many overtures to the sport to help it get its act together.
The Sports Council should

be guiding us towards rehabilitation rather than swatting at us. We are now one year into the next Olympiad and people will be demanding results. If they do not want success, leave us alone and let us wallow in our poverty.

"Athletes and coaches are asking me for support which I cannot give. I identify with what Rodney Walker says. Nobody in their right mind would give money to a situation which is unstable. The stabilising influence can only come from help from the Sports Council.

OTHER SPORT

Sheffield (5 45)
ICR HOCKEY: Superienque: Ayr v Cardell
(6 0). Nomingham v Manchester (7 0):
Sheffield v Revocable (7 0), Bracknell v
Bacangstoka (6 0).
LACROSSE: Shepherds Friendly Society
Leogue: Premier division: Slockport v

Moorthorpe SNOOKER: International Open (in

on-Baue

N S

POOTBALL (-) Blackburn v Covertry ...

> Fath round Siminghem v Wrishem
> Chesterfield v Nottinghem Forest
> Leads v Portsmouth
> Manchester City v Middlestrough
> Wimbledon v OPR FA Certing Premierable

Fest division

Southerd 21 is 11 14 28 55 29
Octor 29 6 10 13 30 38 28
Octor 29 6 10 13 30 38 28
OR MARTIENS LEAGUE Premier division.
Anthrof v Gressyr, Burton Ablon v Gressecrd and Northfeet. Coelemann v Cheimcold. Crawley V Nurseafort, Dorchester v
Frings Lyrin
Newport Newscatt, Dorchester v
Faller-Sowen v Baldock, Meethyr v Subury.
In Newport AFC v Carebridge Cey.
In Newport States of Carebridge Cey.
In Newport Cay Middland division: Biston v
Reduker's Corby v Sasiland. Evestian v
Reduker's Town Ordinated Town v
Reduker's Town Colditation Town v
Sasiland Residency v Bission Southern
deviation: Rashley v Clearesetter Town
Corbor of Reduker's Vales, Weston-super
Lonson Wasselovilla v Vales, WestonLonson Wasselovilla v Vales, Weston
Lonson Vales of the Corbon Corbon
Sasilan Leck v Facides, Manne v Baston,
Soerryman v Alternan Wasselovi v LapLander Finan deviation: Affactor Fastey Coltic v
Lonson Vales of Sasilan Linadd.

Fa vouth Culff. Fastey Coltic v
Lonson Vales of Sasilan Linadd.

Fa vouth Culff. Fastey Coltic v
Lonson Vales of Sasiland Reduker.

Far vouth Culff. Fastey Coltic v
Lonson Vales of Sasiland Reduker.

(10) Millivesii v Rotherham
(11) Notte County v Blackpool
— Peterborough v Bristol City
(12) Prymouth v Bury
(13) Preston v Wycombe
(14) Stockport v Strewebury
(15) York v Gillingham
(16) York v Gillingham
(17) F W D L F A Pa

Brandord 30 15 11 4 48 29 65
Luton 28 16 7 6 47 29 52 Wycombe ... 28 8 5 15 28 41 30 Palerboro... 30 6 11 13 40 62 29 Notis County 30 5 9 15 22 39 24 Rotherham 29 4 9 16 34 45 21 Third division (15) Cartiele v Brighton
(17) Derington v Scuntinope
(18) Doncaster v Barnet
(19) Fulhern v Wigen
(20) Hertlepool v Torqueiy
(21) Hull v Easter
(22) Leyton Cresps v Cambridge Ulid
(23) Mensfield v Lincoln
(25) Swensee v Scarborough

Vended Conterence

(---) Brechin v Raith (43) Clyde v Kilmem Bell's Scottish League First division (--) Berwick v Queen of South (46) Stanhousemulir v Ayr

(45) Sternhousemulir v Ayr

Trind diverson

(47) Albion v Inverness CT

(48) Cowderribeeth v Cusen's Park

(48) East Striting v Forter

— Monitores v Arbroeth

— Ross County v Alice

(5) East Striting v Forter

— Ross County v Alice

(6) East Striting v Forter

(7) Ross County v Alice

(8) East Striting v Forter

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(16) Register

(17) Register

(17) Register

(17) Register

(18) Register

Toddingen v Arisey, Welwyn Garden v Northenden.

HELLSNC LEAGUE Premier division: Abingdon Usited v Carterion Town, Becester Town v Idrobury Foren; Brecitey Town v Arrondsbury Town, Pengars, Brecitey Town v Arrondsbury Town, Detaol Town v Burnham; Fairfard Town v Wertings Town.

Lembourn Sports v Sthichsood Unded, Tuffley Rouses v Highworth Town. Premier division: Cup: Third round: Swindon Supermerine v Endsleigh.

COURAGE COAFEMBE COUNTIES LEAGUE. Premier division: Ash v Chyotesel; Bedford v Hertley Welthey; Cohern v Conntinent Classistic Canaleth v Viting Sports; Feltham v Fermiers, George and V Continent v Hertley Welthey; Cohern v Conntinent v Memory. Regimes Park Vale v Westburg & Could New York of Sports of Section v Hertley Welthey; Regimes Park Vale v Westburg & Recipit v Celvis; Berstrigt ov Bideford v Memory Welton Casualis v Cowl

SCREWFEX DIRECT LEAGUE. Premier division: Sandspars v Westbury, Brodport v Celvis; Bristington v Bideford, Chippenham v Trenton; Mengalssield v Emore; Tauriton v Peutino R Tomnigton v Backwell.

LEWECH EASTERN COUNTIER LEAGUE. Premier division: Surf Youn v Stowneriest, Clacion v Felentham; Felbestowe P and T v Diss; Greet Yermouth v Harwork and Parkesson; Sudbury Res v Wordsen; Sudbury Western Welson; Sudbury Res v Wordsen; Sudbury Western Welson; Sudbury Western Western Sudbury Western Welson; Sudbury Western Welson; Sudbury Western Western Sudbury Western Welson; Sudbury Western Western Sudbury Western Sudbury Western Sudbury Western Sudbury Western Western Sudbury West Newmarket, Woodbridge Town v Hadleigh U.

IEMSCIN WESREK LEAGUE: First division: Trison v Bournarnouth Brockerfurnt v Romey; Downton v Cowes Sports, East Cowes v Lymington; Gosport v Christ-church; Petersfield v Bestleigh; Portsmouth v Andover; Thatcharn Town v Berneriouth v Andover; Thatcharn Town v Berneriouth Heatit; Whitchurch v Windomer Town WinstTown Backerharn v Lordswood; Challern v Faversham v Continuen v Furness; First division: Backerharn v Lordswood; Challern v Faversham; Continuen v Furness; First division: Cup; Cluster-Small; Deal v Stade Green; Herne Bay v Greenwich; Hyttle v Cay; Sheppoy v Turnfridge Wells: SOUTHERN AMATEUR LEAGUE: First division: Carstralton v Bast Barnet Od: NatWest Bank v South Bank; Old Esthermeans v Norsemen, Old Parmdaravia v Polytechnic.

(at Polo Farm, 1.0); Harvent v East Grinstead (at Hevent Collage, 2 15); Hourslow v Centrock (at Dulase Mesalove, Chiswick, 2.0); Teddington v Guildrord (at Dulese Mesalove, Chiswick, 2.0); Teddington v Guildrord (at Dulese Mesalove, Chiswick, noon). First drivialon: Beeston v Doncester (at Highliside, Notingham, 2.0), Bucimets v Crostys, (at Highlis Boys School, 2.0); Bournville v City of Portsmouth (at King School, Edgbeston, 2.30). Bromley v Brooklands (at Priory Lessure Centre, Orington, 10); Hull v St. Albers Ist Hull Unix, 2.0); Incien Gymidrana v Edgbeston (at Thombour Awenue, 2.30). Isca v Finiterands (at Easter School, 1.30); Lawa v Finiterands (at Easter School, 1.30); Lawa v Finiterands (at Easter School, 1.30); Codord Hawles v Harleston Meggies (at Banbury Road, 2.8); Oxford University v Warrington (at St. Edward's School, 2.0); Sheiffeld v Trosms (at Abbeydele Park, 2.0); WCMEINS Ribmisself (11.0); England XI v Wales (11.0); England XI v Wales (11.0); England XI v Woles (11.0); England XI v Wales (11.0); England XI v W

Brackord v Sheffield Wednesday (1.30) Leicester v Chalese (4.10) Nationwide League : Tennents Scottish Cup learts v Dundee Utd (3 15) THE REST LEAGUE OF WALES: EDOW Von Postmedog.
FA WOLERY DEPENDER LEAGUE No.
Ional division: Coydon v Wember (a
Coydon Scotta Arma, 2.0).
FA WOLERY LEAGUE: Neumann cfvision: Aston Villa v Shelfield Wednesday;
Byth Sparana v Garawood St Felena;
Stoupport v Bradford. Southern division:
Brighton and How v Berthamsseed;
barden v Cadord Res; Leyton Crient v
Langford: Whitehewk v Three Bridges.

RUGBY LEAGUE Silk Cut Plate Plant round Phat round
Phat round
Phat round
Hull Kf v Doncester (3.0)
Hurstet v Huddersfield (3.30)
Lancastria Lynx v Barrow (3.0)
Leigh v Swinton (3.0)
Leigh v Swinton (3.0)
Whitehavan v Batley (3.0)
Worder v York (2.30)
Worder v York (2.30) RUGBY LINION Courage Clubs Chempionship

HOCKEY NATIONAL LEAGUE: Premier distrion: Barlord Tigers v Reading (at Holyhead Lei-sure Centre, 1.0); Canterbury v Southgete

MOP. (Hell) (2.0) (et The Stadium, Millon Keynes)
WGAEN'S COUNTY CHAMPONEHIP:
Middands Leiba Vhorthares Derby v Saffa;
Morthards v Stefa; Derbys v Warws (at Bedtord IC, 11.15), North Lanes v ICa: Nam Lge v
Chesther Cumpte v Stef Lge; Man Lge v
Lanes; ICI, v Cumbris; Chesther v Stef Lge;
et Affricham, 9.30; Durham v Yoris;
Northamberland v Humberride; Cumpte v
Humbersder; Yoris v Northamberland (at Morpoth, 9.0), South; Middox v Caort; Series v
Kent; Susset v Surrey; Middox v Caort; Series v
Kent; Susset v Surrey; Middox v Caort; Series v
Kent; Susset v Surrey; Middox v Caort; Kent;
Susset v Surrey; Middox v Caort; Kent;
Susset v Surrey; Middox v Caort;
Series v
Losse; Surrey v O'Xon (at Millon Keynes;
10.30) CLUB MATCH: Ownwart v Bowdon. OTHER SPORT CTHER SPORT

BASKETBALL: Budwheer League: Chester v Simmighem (8.0), Crystal Palece v Menchester (5.0); Lecester v Leocards (7.0), Plestonel League: Men: Pref chester v Leocards (7.0), Plestonel League: Men: Pref chester v Codord (4.0); Wese v Cardiff (8.0) Women: Pret christone: Crystal Palece v London (5.0); Hartesden v Birmigham (4.0), Spetial of v Francisco (4.0), ICE HOCKEY: Superinague: Newcastle v Landon (6.0); Septial (6.0); League: Mencheste v Both (6.0); Septial (6.0); Se

Rempson's Emission, Northernote Suncer v Wootton's Speling v Ford Sportis,
Samford v Cogerihoe, 8 and L Corty v
Mirriens Bandesoner, Wellingborrough v St
Necta, Cup: Second round Diney v 8t Aes.
NTERLINK EXPRESS ALLANCE: Beidmers St M v Stepenhilt, Knypensey V v W Mid
Polico: Peleal V v Chaserown; Pushed O v
Penshore T, Sendwell v Blakannik; Shrinal T
v Handlay Athelic: Statford T v Blaswich
Jown; Wilterhalt v Rocester.
BMSLSGH INSURANCE MIDLAND
COMBINATION: Challenge Cup: Fourth
round: Bolenal 8 v Krigs Health Premier
division: David Loyd v Abrecturatic
Hendestann Timbors v Colestini Helpage v
Knowle; Kenikworth v Bouthern; Messey
Ferguson v Coverby Sprinc; Melr KA v
Stmiey, Richmond Switts v Weel Midland
Fire Senvice: Studiey Bid v Bission Community College, Welferbourne v Worcester).
BANISTS BEEWERY LEAGUE Fremier
division: Cradicy Town v Derlasson, Hill Too
R v Lye Town: Stafford T v Brentey Hill T:
Thindille v Maham T; Wechesteich V Welsel
Wood: Wokerhampton C v Sourport S
Woherhampton United v Westfields
NORTH WEST COUNTES LEAGUE First
division: Alberton Colleries v Salord;
Russourch v Glosson North End: Derven V NORTH WEST COUNTIES LEAGUE First division: Atherton Colleries v Salord; Bussouph v Glossop North End; Dawen v Bootle; Eashwood H v Chadderon, Holiair Old Boys v Stackpool Rovers; Mossley v Kdsgrove; Permit v St Hearns; Prescot Cables v Citheros; Rossendale v Northwort Town; Trafford v Newcostle Town; Vaudrall GM v Marin Peacl.

NORTHERN COUNTIES EAST LSAGUE.

NORTHERN COUNTIES EAST LSAGUE. GM v Marsin Reset.

NORTH-CENN COUNTIES EMIT LEAGUE Premier division: Amithorpe Weltere v Hellent; Beiper Town v Osseti Town, huchreif Town v Glesshoughron Weltere, brensedge v Ashtiteid: North Ferriov v Denaby. Osseti Town, et al. (1998) Town, huchreif Town v Glesshoughron Weltere, Liversedge v Ashtiteid: North Ferriov v Denaby. Osseti "Alsico v Brigg Town; Pontesiact Cots v Ashtiteid: North Ferriov v Denaby. Osseti, "Alsico v Brigg Town; Pontesiact Cots v Ashtitey MW; Seby v Arnold; Shedied v Pickering: Thackey v Katheld Main.

FEDERATION BREWERY NORTH-FIFM LEAGUE: Pint division: Center-le-Sueet v Bellingham, Dunston Federation v Essengtor: Tow Law v Stockton; West Auckland v Whickhom, Whitey v Morpeth.

SOLITH EAST COUNTIES LEAGUE: Pint division: Centeral (10 Milwell v Norweni (11 0), Cuters Park, Rangers v Leyton Onert (10 45), Totterham v Chartton (11 0), Cuters Park, Rangers v Leyton Onert (10 45), Totterham v Chartton (11 0); Oxford United Viction; Criston Well v Southern (11 0); Cyctel Palece v Totterham (11 0); Cycled United v Luten (11 0), Swindon v Southernpon (11 0); Oxford United v Luten (11 0), Swindon v Southernpon (11 0); Cyctel Palece v Totterham (11 0); Cycled United v Luten (11 0), Swindon v Southernpon (11 0); Cycled United v Luten (11 0), Swindon v Southernpon (11 0); Cycled United v Luten (11 0), Swindon v Southernpon (11 0); Cycled United v Luten (11 0), Swindon v Southernpon (11 0); Cycled V II.0); Cycled Palece v Totterham (11 0); Cycled United v Luten (11 0); Swindon v Southernpon v Brist division: Bellyclere v Crusades; Gieriforna v Lindeld; Premier division: First division: Bellyclere v Carnot, Bengor v Newry, Dassibay v Lame; Ormach v Ballymena.

An Harp Lucer National League: Premier division: First division: Selyclere v Carnot, Bengor v Newry, Dassibay v Lame; Ormach v Ballymena.

An Harp Lucer Nation (11 0); Sigo v UCD (7 0); Press & Joseph Nation (12 0); Sigo v UCD (7 0); Press & Joseph League Page (12 0); Sigo v UCD (7 0); Press & Joseph League Page (12 0); Sigo v UCD (7 0); Pr

Home Ferm v Bray (7.30); Sigo v UCD (7.30)
FRESS & JOURNAL HOME AND LENGUE:
Cove v Brotz: Egn v Namr County; Fornes Mechanics v Clachman County; Fornes Mechanics v Clachman Christian County; Fornes Mechanics v Clachman Crush End Vertones (Rothes v Wick Academy.

AFA SENICR CUP: Fourth round Crush End Vertones v Old Merchenderlens, Lerabury v Whan; Notteberough v Carl Service, Oct Aloydays v West Wickless Southpate Southpate County v Hale End Ath, Ulysses v Particulations one: Abantan v St Many's Cod. Old Finchisera v Wandsworth Bor; Southpate County v Hale End Ath, Ulysses v Particulations one: Abantan v St Many's Cod. Old Finchisera v Wandsworth Bor; Southpate County v Hale End Ath, Ulysses v Particulations one: Second-round registy: Salopers v Chignetists. Premier description of the Christian Chapter Second-round registy: Salopers v Chignetists. Premier descriptions v Old Registeries v Old Vaughariens.

Kock-off 2:30

MATIONAL, CONFERENCE LEAGUE: Promiler diffeion: Bovestey v Dudley Hill,
Egnemont v Oldham St Annes; Mayfeld v
Leigh Miner, Saddieworth v Wootson: West
Hull v Heworth: Wigen St Patricks v Lock
Lane. Plast division: East Leads v
Blackbrook; Eastmoor v Asianz, Leigh Seat
v Thomili: Millon v Berow Island;
Motigreen v Outlon; Walney Central v Wigen
St Judles. Second division: Eccles v York
Acorn; New Eastwick v Feetherstone Amaleur, Overdon v Millond; Rednill v Densbury
Moor; Shaw Cross v Normanion; Skirtsurgh v
Hull Dockers.

Errege v Leads (1.30).
Harrogasis v Walsasi (2.15).
Harenz v Fylde (1.0).
Literpool St Helens v Cilhon
Orloy v Mortey (2.16).
Reading v Rednith (1.30).
Reading v Rednith (1.30).
Wharfedele v London Welsh (2.15). Fewritr ultrinion month

Fourty (Malion South

Fount eleason south
Berry Hill v High Wyconibe
Charton Park v North Weitham
Charton Police v Plymouth (3.0)
Memopolitan Police v Plymouth (3.0)
Meson y Berry (3.0)
Memopolitan Police v Plymouth (3.0)
Memopolitan V Berry (3 Meidenhead v St Ives, Masson v Bernstaple, Salisbury v Launderjon; Torquey v Camborne LONDON: First division: Estes v Thuroski

LOHDON: First division: Exher v Tharrock; Norwich v Old And-Whitghtisher; Reisky v Guidford and Godaining; Southerd v Old Cohleans; Staines v Harriner; Sudhury v Besingsrohe; Sutton and Epsom v Werbledon.

MIDLANDS: First division: Linemington v Derby: Laighton Buzzard v Camp Hill, Mansfeld v Burton; Scumhorpe v Broad Street; Safford v Belgierev, Strodouad Park, v Barkers Butts; Syston v Wolverhampton; Westleigh v Whitchurch
NORTH: First division: Brackers and Bingley v Broughton Park; Hull Ionians v Maccleshed. Sedgicy Park v Bradington.
Tynedole v New Binghton: West Park Eramhope v Widnes; Wigton v Stockdon

Anglo-Weish competition Group A Group B Group C

Group D

Second division

Second aimsion
Edinburgh Acads v
Glasgow Acads (3.0)......
Glasgow HK v Biggar (3.0)
Gasto Weer of Scottand (3.0)
Kelso v Dundee HSFP (3.0) "Third division (@marnock v Glasgow Southern (3 0) ... Musseburgh v Sellurk (3 0) ... Peebles v Kirkcaldy (3 0) ... Slewan's Mel FP v Preston Lodge (3 0)

Fourth detailon
Glanrothes v Grangemouth (3.0) ...
Haddington v Gordonens (3.0) ...
Langhalm v Constorphine (3.0) ...
Langhalm v Constorphine (3.0) ...

NASTRO AZZIRRO LEAGUE: Premier League: Anchonant v Beckerhem. Chichester v Tunbridge Wells, Gone Courl v Farshem. High Wycombe v Ramgenhat. Maddenhead v Winnbedon: Old Kingstonens v Richmonti, Old Whilightens v Winnchester, Spencer v Hamp-slead/Westrinstor, Wolong v Martined Wolonghem v Bounemouth Hamp-alia/Surrey: Cambatay v Barnes; Potsmouth v Epoom; Orded v Southamplon; Old Cranisighans v Andover, Goan v Old Mid-Whitghtans; Blandlord v London University, Petersfeld v Basingstoke; Cheam v Purley Kent/Sussenc, Ashford v Middelon, Bedleyheath v Old Holoombeans; Bedley Invitat v Martien Russes; Blandloreth v Old Bordenans; Bogror v Eastbourne; Brighton v Horshern; Hame Boy v Bulvedere, Lloyds

Bank v Mid Sussex, Tules Hill v Sevenpalas; Worthing v Old Williamsonians MiddySerfu/Burba and Dron, American Cilifon v Gertiff Ath, Copdock v Cambs C; Hampion v Rover Cowley, Livespool v Mitton Keynes; Eastcole v Mill Hat, Germads

Brackmell v Lenne, Chry of Chicard v Cholosey OS v Protestack, Newport v Mitton Keynes; Eastcole v Mill Hat, Germads Cross v West hampisteed, harrow v risyes, Headington v PHC Chewick; Newbury v Richings Park, Staines v Fernham Com-mon; Sunbury v Marlow CHER SPORT

BASICETBALL: Budweiser Lasgue: Manchester v London (7 30); Newcaste v Sheffield (7 30); Newcaste v Sheffield (7 30); Harnel and Warford v Lecuster (7 30); Drames Valley v Crester (8.0) Worthing v Crystal Palace (8.0) National Lesgue: Merc First division: Bury and Bolton v Briton (7 30); Country v Solers (7 30), Phymouth v Lespool (7 30), Wasminster v Nottingham (8.0) Women: First division: Berking and Dispersion in Powich (8.0), Crystal Palace v Northempton (9.0); Lindon v Nottingham (6.0); Ethondos v Spetthorne (8.30); Transes Valley v Sheffield (5 45)

mon: Sunbury v Mariow
DTZ DEBENHAM THORPE: MIDLAND
LEAGUE: Premier division: Hempton-inArden v Blossomheid, Harbotne v Coventry
and North Warwickshine; North North V
Kraises: Nobroghern v Loughborough Studerlis: Olion and West Warwickshine v
Bloweitch
NORTHERN LEAGUE: First division:
Chester v Ben Rhydding, Norton v Nesson,
Remparine v Harrogetes, Sheffield Barkers v
Springlietch. Southpon v Svalweit;
Timposicy v Formby.
ADNAMS EAST LEAGUE: Premier di-

Timpériey v Formby.

ADNAMS ESST LEAGUE: Premier division A: Cheimsford v Dereham; Colchester v Bishop's Stortford; Ipswich v Cambridge University, Peterborough Town v Cambridge City, Reclandge and Illand v Sudoury, Premier division B: Bedford Town v Romford: Bury SI Edmunds v Norwich Chy; Ipswich and East Suffak v Huntingdon; Lution Town v Westellif; Old Seutherderu v Clarifor v Cambridge (Cambridge).

don: Luton Town v Westcom; Southendam v Cladion. WOMEN'S REPRESENTATIVE MATCHES: England XI v England under-21 (2.30); England XI v Wales (4.30) (at The Stedaum, Millon Keynes).

WEST LEAGUE: Boumernouth v Chellen-ham. Colvell v Rediand; Wimbonne v St Austell; Yale v Leominsler CLUB MATCHES: Alandge v Chester.

Abortosen:

VOLLEYBALL: National League: Men:
First division: Rector Learpool City v
Potonia Eating (5 30), Leeds v Sportset
Whyte-feld (4 0): Crotron Sportsweathouse v
Warneck Riga (3 0), City of Stoke v Tooling
Aquila (5 30), Wesser v Malory Levinsham
(5.30) Women's Cup: Berni-Final:
Menchester United Salidrd v Britannia
Music City (4.30)

Pick up the phone

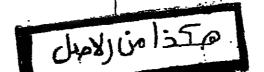


WEEKEND'S F.A. CUP ACTION 4-5 Birmingham Wrexham 7-2 Coventry 4-1 13-5 Bradford (S) 2-1 Sheff. Weds. Ews

4-6 Blackburn 7-2 Chesterfield 15-8 **8-13** Leeds Portsmouth 9-2 9-4 Leicester (B) 15-8 Chelsea 6-5 7-4 Man. City 15-8 Middlesbro' 6-4 4-7 Wimbledon 11-5 O.P.R. 5-1 S – Playing Sunday, Live on Sky. B – Playing Sunday, Live on BBC TV.. All above, extra time does not count.

LATEST 0005 OF William Hill TY TEXT







SATURDAY FEBRUARY 15 1997

England steeled for aerial onslaught from spirited and familiar foes

Elwood heightens Irish expectancy

FROM DAVID HANDS, RUGBY CORRESPONDENT, IN DUBLIN

ENGLAND, Jack Rowell said this week, want to "absorb and impose" against Ireland at Lansdowne Road here today. Nobody is in any doubt that the wave of English visitors to the Irish capital for the third leg of the five nations' championship will absorb in great quantities, but imposition is something their team will find more difficult.

It is far too easily forgotten how immature this England team is in key areas, such as half back and full back, nor how well Ireland are coming to know them now that nine of the team play in the Courage Clubs Championship. This is not so much a case of familiaropportunity for a more accurate assessment of the strengths and weaknesses of

individuals under pressure. Not that Brian Ashton, the Ireland technical advisor, will have needed, for example, a profile from Nick Popplewell and Ross Nesdale on their Newcastle colleagues, Tim Stimpson and Tony Underwood. Ashton has seen the videos for himself, he knows the accuracy of Eric Elwood's boot and England's back three defenders can expect to be peppered with high kicks during the Irish Permanent international this afternoon.

It was Elwood whose souring garryowen in Cardiff a fortnight ago descended not only on Neil Jenkins, but also on the Wales posts, the pad-ding on which belped to baffle Jenkins and earn a try for Jonathan Bell. Ashton awarded his stand-off half only seven out of ten for execution of a ploy drawn directly from rugby league - "If he'd hit the crossbar, I'd have given him the full ten," Ashton said. Peter Sterling did it for the Australia rugby league teams of the early 1980s and St Helens garnered three tries Challenge Cup final against Bradford Bulls last season.

That is what Ashton describes as planned rugby. There is no more Irish a ploy than the garryowen, but it is where it is used that matters and England know only too well that the former Bath coach will have massaged the ireland approach to maxi-

mum effect. Yet if Elwood, the calming, slightly un-Irish stand-off, can be hedged around, as Gregor Townsend was at Twickenham during Scotland's subsidence, then England's game may prosper.

When Rowell, the England coach, talks of absorbtion, it is not only Irish passion and fury that he means. He wants his big forwards to soak up whatever Nesdale, Jeremy Davidson and Eric Miller can hurl at them, he wants to dominate the set-pieces in traditional English style and give Ireland to loose ball to play with, as England did so well when playing into a gale here two years ago, when the ball was hardly controllable. If, at the same time, Richard

Hill can again work from the open-side flank to such good effect, then the pressure will return on the Ireland back division, which cracked badly against France in the final quarter last month. The main difference between then and now is the presence of Jim Staples, which offered Ireland so valuable an attacking option in Cardiff, as it has done for Harlequins this season. The full back's appreciation of when to run and when to kick is the hallmark of a talented footballer whose long-term value has been eroded only by

It would be idle to pretend that one victory, by the small-est possible margin, has

J E Staples (Hartequire)

J C Bell (Northernoton)

J A Topping (Bellymena)

E P Elwood (Lanedowne)

N J Popplewell (Newces

D S Corkery (Bristol)

W D McSride (Malane)

ERPMiles (Libraria)

N A Hoger (Terenure College

J W Devidson (London Irieh)

Raferae; C J Hawka (New Zeeland)

REPLACEMENTS: 18 D Q Humphreys (London Irish), 17 B T O'Meara (Cork Corl), 18 G M Fulcher (London Irish), 19 P Flavin (Blackrock Coll), 20 A T H Clarke (Northempton), 21 A G

M J Field (Malone)

D A Hickie (St Mary's College)

FIVE NATIONS'



RESULTS: Instand 15 France IZ: Scotland land 19 Wales 24; England 41 Scotland 12; Wales 25 Iroland 26.

turned Ireland into a dominant force, but it has given them a belief that was apparently absent earlier this season. Nor is there any doubt that the arrival of England in particular will motivate Ireand that little bit more, though Ashton will look to see that his players sustain the variations in their play that he has introduced.

Already, Ashton has seen an advance in Irish ambitions backs looking to run possession into space, forwards giving Hogan early ball at lineout

ENGLAND

15 TR G Stimpson (Newcas

J M Steightholme (Bath)

PR de Glanville (Bath)*

T Underwood (Newcastle

P J Grayson (Northernotor

A C T Gomeranii (Wasps)

G C Rowntree (Leicester)

M P Regan (Bristol)

LBN Deliaglio (Waspe

M O Johnson (Leicest

T A K Rodber (North ton/Army)

PEPLACEMENTS: 16 J C tempost: (Bath), 17 M J Cett (Beth), 18 A Heestey (Leicester), 19 D J Gerforth (Leicester), 20 R Cockerti (Leicester), 21 B B Claries (Richmond).

S D Shew (Bristof)

B A Hill (Saracene)

BBC1: from 2.25

WDC Carling (Harisquins)

TODAY'S TEAMS IN DUBLIN

and ruck. "Players are starting to think on their feet but there's still a long way to go, he said. For the moment, he is content to have erased the as an insult to talented players and given them greater freedom in which to operate.

"The start of any game tends to be a bit frenchic, it takes time to settle down, Rowell said, and of nowhere is that more true than Dublin. Yet opportunity can beckon early, as it did for England a couple of times against Scotland, and it takes speed of thought and speed of limb to

Some doubt remains whether England have enough of either. Will Carling was criticised for retaining possession after breaks had been made gainst Scotland, but the inbility of his colleagues to support properly contributed to the demise of such moves, while not for two seasons have England been able to engage their full back systematically as an attacking weapon, though that is what Mike Catt, picked to do.

Stimpson had one early and effective run against Scotland, but thereafter had to make do with whatever Scotland, rather than his own team, gave him. There is no specific reason for a failure to bring the full back into the line," Ph de Gianville, the captain, said. "It relies on the attitude of the players and the type of ball

It also relies on the under-standing and footballing skills of those around the full back, more often than not his wings, and England's litany of defensive howlers has a long and undistinguished history. Nevertheless, there seems little justification for the short odds being offered here yesterday -Irish victory, which has been achieved only once in the past ten years. If England's tight forwards can absorb the initial onslaught, they are as well equipped to win here as STOOLS

Voices raised, page 1 Wales discounted, page 4



Johnson rises to the challenge during England's training session yesterday

erton threw him the ball and it

was not until 20 minutes

before lunch that England tasted further success. Blair

Pocock fell into a pre-deter-

reined trap, failing to get to the

pitch of a flighted ball from

Croft and driving to Atherton

Croft's bowling now showed the benefits of selectorial confi-

dence, his natural control

positioned at short mid-on.

Croft prevents Atherton's gamble from going awry

CRICKET CORRESPONDENT IN CHRESTOHUBICH

CHRISTCHURCH (first day of five, England won toss): New Zealand have scored 229 wickets against

ALL the old maxims about never putting a team in to bat were recited for Michael Atherton's benefit in Auckland last month. He ignored them then and came within one ball of a win to vindicate his fudgment. He ignored them again yesterday, found the Lancaster Park pitch in league with the sceptics, yet still emerged with dignity and hope intact.

If Atherton was mistaken in his tactics, it was in the anticipation, shared by most of his team, that a green surface would behave as suspiciously as its appearance suggested. In Christchurch, this is seldom the case and the only factors preventing New Zealand finishing the day in control were their own lack of confidence and the discipline of the English bowling.

It can be argued, however, that the insertion was negative and counter-productive, that its provocation was to deny New Zealand their preferred route and its effect was to surrender an opportunity to put the series beyond doubt with an imposing first-innings total. Only the end result can now dismiss such a charge.

Having failed to bowl out New Zealand inside a day, England certainly made life harder than it needed to be, Essentially, they volunteered to bat under more pressure when their turn came. The



Croft three-wicket hanl

consolation is the knowledge that this pitch contains few evils - certainly, far fewer than Atherton feared, and his opposite number hoped, when they reported for duty.

A draw is not enough for New Zealand. They must win here to salvage a shared series and redeem some of the damage their reputations have suffered in the past week, so the sight of a covering of live grass on the pitch was far more welcome to their eyes than to England's, as they had named four pace bowlers.

Stephen Fleming, leading New Zealand for the first time, dmitted: "The pitch really didn't do very much. We're happy to have lost only five wickets, but it is now down to us to get the ball in the right els a bit more than England did."

Fleming's promotion was one intriguing result of a groin injury that discounted Lee Germon. Only two years ago. Fleming was suspended from three one-day internationals as one of three New Zealand players found smoking cannabis on a tour of South Africa. The other two, Dion Nash and Matthew Hart, have vanished from the international scene. but Fleming is one of few New talent and charisma to make a

Similar things have been said of Adam Parore, but, on Monday, he was dropped. Germon's absence also brought his reprieve, however. wicketkeeper-batsman. It was ironic indeed that, come the close, he was batting stoically the another problem child, Chris Cairns.

A confusing sequence of events was completed by Matt Home. His debut, at No 3, came about through Parore's demotion and he batted with great assurance to make 42, decorated by emphatic frontfoot driving. It was only after his dismissal that he felt the full effects of a blow on the left hand from Darren Gough, submitted to an X-ray and discovered he had broken a

England, who had the pleasure of naming an unchanged team for the first time in 33 Tests, were not deflected by deceptive conditions and they must already be grateful. The two spirmers, Robert Croft and Philip Tufnell, shared 40 overs on the first day, conced-ing only 71 rons, and will have much more to do before the

principal wicket-taker with another thing that would not have been predicted before play began, but the belief that the seamers would dominate was disproved long before lunch, by which time Dominic Cork had bowled an eccentric, expensive spell. compensated only by the wicket of Bryan Young, who was

bowled playing across a rare Gough, this time, had no

NEW ZEALAND: Feet Investor B A Young b Cork
(Brint, 11 balls, 2 lours)
B A Pocock c Atherton b Croit
(Roma, 65 balls, 1 lour)
M J Home C Thomps b Gough
(155trin, 12) balls, 4 lours)
S P Flerring st Showel b Croit
(218min, 197 balls, 6 lours)
N J Astie c Hosseln b Croit

Extres (b 1, lb 13, nb 15) ... Total (5 vitta, 90 overs, 365min)... 229

S&Doubl, G (Allold, D), Vallori and H T Device to but. FALL OF VICKETS: 1-14 (Pocock 1), 2-78 (Home 30), 3-106 (Plenning 11), 4-137 (Plenning 25), 5-201 (Parore 25). BOWLING: Cark 15-3-67-1 (nb 12; 7 fours; 6-1-33-1, 6-2-20-0, 3-0-14-0);

Calls charged at least sate. All calls are received for quality.

nted by a range of attacking experiments. With

SCORING MOTES: Flest day: Lonch: 85-2 (28 overs, 121mir; Horne 31, Flerning 2). Test: 180-4 (57 overs, 24 train; Flerning 3, Percre 9). Second new ball: 207-5 (84 overs) at 5.07pm. ENGLANC: N V Knight, "M A Alterton, †A J Stewart, N Husseln, G P Thorpe, J P Crawley, R D B Croit, D G Cort, D Gough, A R Caddick, P C R Tufnell

Caddick 18-4-33-0 (pb 1; 2 fours; 5-2-50, 5-2-8-0, 3-0-8-0, 2-0-5-0, 3-0-7-0); Gough 18-3-44-1 (rb 3; 3 fours; 3-0-13-0, 10-3-19-1, 3-0-12-0); Crott 24-4-9-3 (rb 1; 1 six, 3 fours; 6-1-12-1, 8-1-18-1, 3-1-8-0, 7-1-10-1); Tufnell 16-8-22-0 (1 four; 10-4-14-0, 6-2-8-0); Thorpe 1-1-9-0.

Umpires: R S Dunne and D B Hair (Australia) Third umpire: D M Dunner. Match referee: P J P Burge (Australie) SERIES DETAILS: First Test (Auck-land): Match drawn, Second Test (Wellington): England won by an innings, and (III units) spell from the other end, England were briefly in the ascendancy and it was no surprise when Horne, his footwork deserting steered Gough to slin.

Nathan Astle, cutting at a ball of inappropriate length, Hussain off Croft, but that was England's last wicket for almost two hours as Fleming and Parore put together a battling stand of 64. They were parted when

Fleming's concentration span, the greatest enemy of his career, let him down again. Charging leverishly at Croft, he was stumped by Stewart. leaving Cairns to survive with difficulty as Caddick gained some extravagant bounce with the new ball. New Zealand's tail is long and one more wicket would have brought a smile of satisfaction to Atherion's face: as it was, he had a night to free over the wisdom of scorning convention once more. Paul Strang, the Zimbab-

wean leg spinner, will be Kent's overseas player this summer. Strang, 26, replaces Carl Hooper, who will be required by the West Indies

Redknapp goes for broke on £5 million Hartson

IT IS perhaps a sad indic ment of the hyperflated Brita stark reflection of the state of near panic at Upton Park, that West Ham United should yesterday pay a club record fee of £5 million for John Harison, the Arsenal forward. He will make his debut this afternoon alongside Paul Kitson, the former Newcastle United striker, who cost £2.3 million last week, in the FA Carling Premiership match away to Derby County.

The purchasing record of Harry Redknapp, the West Ham manager, has not proved too successful in rebuying from abroad; thus, it was no surprise that Redknapp has concentrated his latest efforts nearer home.

However, the credentials of Hartson, 2I, who has signed a five-year contract, and Kitson, 26, do not bear the closest of scratiny, particularly with West Ham struggling in eighteenth place in the Premier-ship. Hartson, though a Wales international, has scored only four goals in 26 appearances for Arsenal this season and only once since September. His disciplinary problems are rather more notable: he has been sent off



Harison: five-year contract

once and booked 12 times, missing five matches because

of suspension.

Redknapp cannot afford to get it wrong again. "We now have two young strikers at the club and they can benefit West Ham not only this season, but also in the long term." he said.

Hartson said: "West Ham has a great future and I want to be part of it. I'm sure we can stay in the Premier League and it's down to me to get the goals to make it happen."

Rounic Whelm, the Southend United manager, has been reinstated, four days after being suspended by the Nationwide League first division club. He still faces a misconduct charge from the Football Association after he was banished from the touchline during the game against Manchester City last Saturday, the incident that led to his suspension. Theo Foley, his assistant, who was also ordered from the touchline at Maine Road, was dismissed by the club.

16

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Bolton Wanderers and Wolverhampton Wanderers have been charged by the FA after a flare-up involving numerous players from each side marred their first division game at Burnden Park last month.

Liverpool have formed an alliance" with Crewe Alexandra, the second division dubit designed to enhance the dev elopment of young players. A Liverpool spokesman said: "It will offer mutual benefits, despite the differences in stature, size and likely future development of the two

Premiership guide, page 50 Gallacher's revival, page 51

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2KEMC

Aphrodite reveals her ample assets Cyprus · 16



SATURDAY FEBRUARY 15 1997



Robert Crampton, writer and nervous substitute, wedged between two Homerton Academicals, heads by car for the football statium . . . or rather Paddington rec, where the team change into their kit and discuss tactics. After a few loosening-up exercises, watched by a young fan, the Ackies take on the might of Brixton Munchen Gladbach under the critical eye of their co-founders. But why worry? The team triumphs 7-2, the ideal excuse for a celebration pint

delicate business this, gatecrashing another man's team. I first mentioned it to Joe in his kitchen three weeks ago. I said: "Joe, they've asked me to write about Sunday league football, why tens of thousands of people do it, more and more teams each season, and so on." Joe nodded and beamed I said: you to play? For the Ackies?" I said: "That's right." He frowned some more. He said: "The thing is, we're doing really well this season."

I said: "I know, Joe, you have juvenus!, or "Let's be reason-told me." He said: "There's able, boys!" And the boys were other blokes waiting to get a game." I said: "I know, I know, but what can I do? Either I get to play, or it's off." I added, in what felt shamefully close to an abuse of power. The pictures will look nice. He said Look.
I'll have to ask the other lads.

Homerton Academicals Foot tell me as we warmed upball Club, they said fine too. There's a little bit of fantasy

When Sunday comes

They play in something called the London Relegation League - nine teams, 16 games a season plus a rather truncated "Joe, there's a smag." He cup competition. It is all very frowned. I said: "It's a bit civilised Many players end up tricky." He said: "They-want; in the LRL because they are fed cup competition. It is all very up with as Tom Findlay, 24, PR manicand left wing, put it, horrible beer monsters kicking them in other leagues. The IRL motto is Aequi simus, juvenus!, or "Let's be reason-

going to be an embarrassment, but even so, I was and am aware that it was the promise. of their own extended, illustrated match report in The Times said: "Fine."

And, when Joe Bond, 36, that lived them. As my fellow solicitor and striker, put it in substitute Mickey Daniel, 26, them, the other members of artist and full back, would later Every weekend thousands of would-be Cantonas battle for minor league glory at the local rec. Substitute

Robert Crampton bribed his way on to the pitch

and pads and cups and shields and refs, and that's good."
Substitute! Indeed. That was

the deal brokered between me, my friend Joe and the triumvirate who run the club. They I play size side with some of are Phil, manager (knackered them, so they knew I wasn't his cruciate ligament in 93, his cruciate ligament in '93, now picks the team); Gus, co-founder, in 1987, and now sort of club captain (does most of the admin, still good for 20 minutes second half); and Kier, captain, midfield engine, motivator, chief scout, alpha male.

Provided they were sufficiently far ahead against many of them, as Nick Miller, Brixton Munchen Gladbach, their captain, told me later in after an hour, they said, then I the pub, had been in a poor

involved in all this, there's kits, could come on and play 30 minutes. (I play up front, and so does loe. He knew it would be him that came off, but he was willing to make the supreme sacrifice.)

> owever, if — perish the thought — the Ackies were strugget a game. Not to worry, said Joe when the Ackies met BMG earlier in the season they won 15 (fifteen)-1, although, admittedly, Brixton had turned up with only eight players, and many of them, as Nick Miller,

state from the night before. So it is in high spirits that we gather at Joe's house in the shadow of Highbury stadium, Islington, north London, on Sunday morning. Joe puts on his video of the Ackie's cup triumph in 1995 - their single honour to date - a triumph in which he scored twice. To eyes attuned to the Premiership, the

ball and the players who chase

it seem to move in slow motion,

like spacemen undergoing zero

gravity training. Suspicious flickers and wavy lines on the screen lead to the accusation that Joe has been overdoing the action replays,

only half-heartedly. He has already owned up to recording every goal he has scored in his 15-year, post-university career in a "little black notebook".

We leave around 11. Me, Joe and John Feeney are in the back of Kier Starmer's Saab, heading for the Astroturf at Paddington rec. John Feeney is wearing an Italy shirt with Maldini on the back. John, 24, a barman and student, is the talented midfield maverick. Every team has one.

To be a talented maverick you have, usually, to be skilful, and yet underperform - for reasons usually connected to your weight and/or fitness. which are, in turn, connected to your lifestyle. This season, however, John is undergoing a Paul Merson-esque transfor-

"I was sub a lot last season and frustrated, so I made a hell an accusation which he denies of an effort." What did you do?

"I stopped eating so much. The midnight kebabs went. I was 16 stone. Now I'm just over 14, and I haven't smoked all year. I wanted to be more part of it."

At the wheel, Kier Starmer, 34, barrister, admits that he has been captain of every. football team he's ever played in, from primary school onwards. He plays at least four times a week. "I just love playing football. I love it." He also says: "I hate losing under any circumstances." Whenever Kier comes up against a decent player, he moves in and attempts ruthlessly to peach him for the Ackies. Both Joe and John arrived in this fashion.

"I met these guys on a stag weekend in Leicester in 1995," says John Feeney. "We played football and afterwards, apparently, Gus was saying, We must get John on his own 'cos we want him to join the Ackies but his mate isn't very good,' trying to be all subtle. So Kier leans over and says, 'So, John, fancy playing for the Ackies?" My mate's face! Now, he can't stand Kier, but there's no

Continued on page 2

78 FEATURES. 10 HOME LIFE.



وركد امن الاصل

ver since its inception. QVC. Britain's man vision shopping channel. QVC. Britain's first telehas been mocked. It looks cheap and tacky, people complain. Presenters who know nothing at all about their subject promote useless tat, and the very lowest form of American gutless consumerism is

being inflicted on the nation. Have these smug critics never watched satellite television? It is supposed to be like that. The sports presenters know nothing about sport and are there only to promote the next night's pay-perview boxing extravaganza. The news people spend all day with a finger in an ear looking slightly off

Reithian values: Quality, Value and Convenience. For a nation of shopkeepers, what could be better than keeping a shop in the corner of the sitting room?

Why, only last week I took the advice of a balding little chap who told me to, "chuck out those crusty old cooking pots, forget that old oven, and buy this 98-piece pile of plastic bits and pieces instead". It was fantastic you could roast a huge joint in only 40 minutes, and get that authentic brown colour, or do baked potatoes in just ten minutes without all that confusing heat getting in the way. So out went the Le Creuset and in came my wonderful microwave set, camera in a pleading way, and most of the people on Live TV can't even speak. So what a joy it is to flick to QVC and absorb those rare

SERIOUS SHOPPING

things like ingredients and season-

Last night, while watching a great show called In the Kitche with Tefal, I bought a Tefal Silhouette Five-piece Pan Set for only £40, plus £4.45 p&p. The pots were so non-stick, the food expert said, that you could make an omelette without using oil or butter, so it was ideal for people on. low-fat diets. Excellent, I thought, you just slap five eggs into the pan. grate in some cheddar as the expert did (using a Tefal multipurpose grater £9.95 - on QVC there are always better ways to slice, dice and grate), and hey presto! A delicious low-fat meal.

ing. So convenient.



GILES COREN

You can watch flower-arranging with Robert de Something, and then call in for the Floral Design. Vase Set (£36). The presenter didn't actually instruct me to buy,

QVC CHANNEL on this occasion, he just said: "My

> ing, she finds it very therapeutic", and "if you're looking for a gift for Mother's Day... Too late, I had already bought my mother a Doctor Marten's Watch (E32.50): "Hey, look at this yellow stitching and the conve-nient buckle. And you're saying that these will be in fashion for as long as Doctor Marten's boots are

sister does a lot of flower arrang-

in fashion?" Best of all though, the presenter pointed out that it had a "Hermie Fligree Face Anniversary second hand, a minute hand, and, Clock (ESO — special "premiere" an hour hand, "which is really price — or, worse still, my Crystal an hour hand, which is really useful". He even turned its back to camera and said: "Look, you've got a stainless steel back, there".

which was a relief, because I was worried that all the cogs and springs might fall out if they forgot to put a back on the watch.

And so it goes on. Quality, Value, Convenience. But I am going to have to have a rest from QVC soon, because I am now in danger in buying things twice - I already have two "Soft Touch" belted cardigans from Honey (£16.75) which feel like cashmere but are actually acrylic and cost a fraction of the price, and if I buy one more Nautical Body Vibes Leisure Suit (£34) I fear my girlfriend may brain me with the Swan Anniversary Clock (£65.75). which really would be sad. because it has a little swan for a

pendulum, and the presenter played Swan Lake while he was showing it off, and said: "This is a thing of beauty but it's a joy for ever because it will actually never outlive its usefulness and can be a

heirloom for later on." With QVC. I have seen "the Beauty of Blue Topaz", and become a collector of Elvis watches ("the King lives on in these fashionable time pieces"), but I fear I will never stay up long enough to see Fragrances by Ivana at 1am. because when you wake up in the morning and flick on the telly before work to see an entirely new presenter turning exactly the same banana cake out of a Tefal baking dish as her colleague did only six hours before you know that you have been spending too much time in front of the shops.

clever with toys Boxing THE PATTER of tiny feet invariably heralds an onslaught of garish plastic toys to challenge your sense of aesthetics, making the purchase of a stylish and well-made toy box essential. Whether your taste is for traditional, customised wooden toy boxes or eccentric designs by contemporary craftmakers, ensure the toy box meets child-safety requirements: wooden chests, particularly, must have locking stay hinges, anti-finger trap gaps, ventilation holes and **SUDI PIGOTT** non-toxic paint finish. 1 Poppy-red, wooden, snall-shaped double-sided book/toy storage unit, with a reading seat and secret compartment, £239 including delivery, from Elephant industries (0181-850 6875). 2 Pine toy box in hand-painted Beatrix Potter design, £305.50-£452.38, from Dragons, 23 Walton Street, London SW3 2HX (0171-589 3795). 3 Hand-made solid pine toy box with hand-peinted and stancilled Victorian nursery design, £285-£467 from Billie Bond Designs (01245 380164). 4 Donald Duck or Aristocat cartoon. reinforced cardboard toy boxes, £12.95, from the Holding Company, 243-245 King's Road, SW3 5EL (0171-352 1600, mail order 0171-610 9160), 5 Handmade limited edition birch-ply puzzle loy box, with colour-matching, shape-sorting number dials and the like, \$325 (post-Christmas special offer, \$299 including delivery), from Woodpecker Toys (01325 377265). 6 Sefari-design painted wooden toy box, £125, from the Pier, 91-95 King's Road, SW3 4PA (0171-351 7100). 7 Portable toy box made from colourful cotton twill rolls on double-castors, £29.99, plus £3.95 p&p, from Baby Basics (mail order 01993 770607). Teddy bear on left, £30.55, from Dragons, as above. Photograph: Des Jenson. Styling: Caroline Griffiths Large teddy £79.99, and small teddy £19.99, both from Hamleys, Regent Street, W1 (0171-734 3161).



the

Malari Barik had the harrowing experience of watching her mother go blind in her old age, and she was terrified that history was about to repeat itself when her own eyes began to cloud over. Thankfully she came to a Sight Savers' eye hospital where surgeons carried out a simple cataract operation.

It cost just £10 to restore her sight.

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SZYS.

'You don't get slagged for lack of skill, only effort'

Continued from page 1 resentment towards me." don't believe in buggering around." Kier says. "I thought, "if that guy loses some weight he could be quite

a player"."
"Kier brings in a lot of players, but not ones who might replace him," says Joe. This team would be a bunch of old elephants without my recruiting," says Kier. which is harsh, but almost certainly fair.

Te arrive at the rec. I talk to Phil Watson, 36, charity administrator, former stalwart, now manager. I ask about his career-ending injury. "I didn't mind too much," he says. "Football turns a lot of people into gits, and I used to get a red mist sometimes when I

Phil gives a team talk in the dressing room. The atmosphere changes as denim and leather give way to royal blue nylon and shin pads. There is no laddish irony. Vaseline is smeared on knees to alleviate friction burns. Somewhere in the last five minutes, this has become a serious business. Keep it tight early on! Call for every ball! There are points at stake! Forget Rob's here! Forget the photographer! You're playing for the Ackies and that's all that matters!" says Phil. This team turned Red Star over twice last season!"

says someone. Generalised shouting takes over: "Easy ball!" "Play it simple!" And, simply: over: "Easy ball!"

A small, scruffy boy intrudes. He points at something. "Can I have that?" he "Out! Out! Out!" says

the Astro, after the warm up, there is another in which Gus



The Ackies Sunday league squad. Back row, left to right: John Phillips, 37, accountant; Gus Robertson, 35, charity administrator, Joe Bond, 36, solicitor, Tom Findlay. 24, public relations officer, Patrick Ladbury, 27, charity worker, Shane Corby, 15, schoolboy, Trevor Hurst, 33, bank worker, John Feeney, 24, barman, Adrian Ladbury, 31, journalist, Front row. Phil Watson, 36, charity administrator: George Daniel, 23, artist; Kier Starmer, 34, barrister; Nick Foord, 19, student; Sammy Daniel, 19, customer relations; Julian Frederick, 18, office junior, Mickey Daniel, 26, artist; Jade Daniel, four, fan

administrator, reiterates what Phil said ten minutes before. Then, there is more exhortatory shouting, and then the

match kicks off. Following a rapid and remarkable series of egregious defensive errors by the Ackies. Brixton Munchen Gladbach score in the first minute.

Organise! shouts Phil. The Ackies' best league finish in seven seasons has been fourth out of ten. in 1992-3. Last season, they were seventh, with five wins, a draw and ten defeats. "Yeah, we've had some pretty abysmal pereven then, we would still

analyse, still appreciate the beautiful game.

"We used to have people who were really hopeiess but were really nice blokes and they'd have been hearthroken if you left them out. People used to come straight from parties, on two hours' sleep, and they'd be chucking their guts up after 20 minutes."

This season, however, a more ruthless selectorial and disciplinary regime has put the Ackies top of the LRL with over half the season gone. People like me now only play if the numbers aren't there." And now the chosen II begin

to orave their worth and for 20 minutes in the middle of the first half they look really quite good, intimidatingly good, alos better than me good.

Passes are strong. Set pieces pay off. They go 41 up. Phil smiles. He says to noe: "You can see your moment of glory approaching." And so it comes, as promised, after an hour, and it would be a lot easier to write this next bit if I were a really bad footballer, but I'm not, just mediocre and way out of practice. I used to play regu-larly at college, but that was eight years ago. So I huff and

puff around a bit. Fortunately, the Brixton defence all seem to be smokers, too. I have acomedy collision with their goalkeeper, and I miss a decent chance — but you don't get slagged for lack of skill, only lack of effort — and Kier keeps shouning, "Let's get Rob a goal!", which is nice of him, and their control half and their centre half says, Who's this Rob? and I try and fail to keep up with Julian, my 18-year-old striking partner, who can run like the wind, who once came third in the 100m for Flarrow Schools, and who goes on to score three for the Ackies in the second half, and so they - we - win

7-2. And I go off to qualified praise and I'm thinking, maybe if I got myself fit... "On the way to the pub, Kier and John swap analyses. "The

bloke you were marking is a great player but he's getting old and fat," says Kier. "Their defence was clueless," says John. There is much talk of grinding out a result while not playing especially well.
I talk to George Daniel, 23,

newly graduated in graphics and fine art, central defender and, by some distance, the Ackies best player, the one the others say could have been a pro. You're good aren't you George, I say. "Everyone says so but I don't feel it," he says. He likes playing at the back. "It's good to know sometimes you have saved the day."

George is so good-natured that, when the team choose their Man of the Match in the pub, he has been known to vote for all the nominees.

There have on occasions been four Daniel brothers in the team, but today Nathan. 29, is ill, Mickey - already mentioned - is on the bench because an old knock has been playing him up, and Sammy, 19, has not turned out this season because he has been working Sundays at Ikea to save up for his imminent travels in Asia. He is here today, however, his last week-

end in England, to support. Sammy forms one seventh of the crowd, the rest of which is: the brothers dad, Earl; Mickey's daughter Jade, Phil's brother Andy, two small boys, and Shane, a young neighbour of Nathan Daniel, watching and waiting, the Ackies' youth

policy made flesh. Sammy explains that he's been earning double time on Sundays, too good to spurn. "But I miss the football, man," he says wistfully. "I miss it bad." I've missed it too. I'd forgotten how much.

Anyone for crochet? Suddenly it's upbeat and sophisticated, says Heath Brown





only effort

are the days of its association with doting grandmas sitting by the fire making baby coats and booties. Now a much more upbeat image surrounds this knitting technique. Since its fashion resurgence, which began with the grunge collection of Marc Jacobs in 1993, through to the Giorgio Armani and Karl Lagerfeld collections the following year, crochet has slowly been infiltrating the designer stores in more and more sophisticated styles.

sophisticated styles.

Today, crocheted clothing is a lot finer and more delicate than fashion creations of the past. "The new look is more beautiful and feminine than people would think possible," says Chris Sims of crochet company D.S. Collection. "It's not just States style patchwork squares, it's a lot more modern."

here is a great collection of ready-to-wear crochet styles on the high street for this spring and summer. The more delicate floral examples are best. Sheen-made items tend to be finer in lace effects but they can lose their shape. Slightly thicker, preferably hand-made versions are better but medium machine examples, such as the halter top shown here by River Island, and other simple styles are a good boy. Slim and short crochet tops are flattering and the more sheer over-dresses available go well with light chiffon slips and strappy tube dresses undernaut.

For the more adventurous, multicoloured stripes in trousers or

coloured stripes in trousers or cardigans have a hint of the Seventies, but a mixture of bright and shudge colours can look nitramodern when teamed with a sexy sheer cardigan and the new thong mandals.



ABOVE: Sive shiny crochet top, £125; chevron stripe skirt, £145, Kate Jones, 28 St Christopher's Place, W1 (0171-935 4197). Khaki laether thongs, £165, Gina, as before

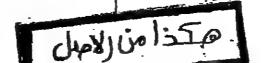


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Bordering on a small world

Hebes, large or small, make an attraction

all year round, says Stephen Anderton

n a hillock in Suffolk, between Debach and Dallinghoo, the dwarfs are massing. It might sound like Tolkien, but it is true. Here, at the Siskin Plants nursery, Chris and Valerie Wheeler are building up a specialist collection of dwarf shrubs and alpines. Their passion is for dwarf hebes, which is hardy in East Anglia - and you can't get much hardier than that.

Hard winters can cut to the ground or kill the large-flowered hybrids of Hebe speciosa, but the Wheelers have been collecting the toughest and smallest species (from 3in to 3ft) for

their collection of 85 varieties and species is recognised as a Nat-ional Collection by the NCCPG National Council for the Conservation of Plants and

Gardens). But why the attraction to dwarf plants? There are few plants today willingly dismissed or scorned fashion-conscious gardeners as dwarf conifers.

particularly in their 1960s-style heather-and-conifer rut. Mr Wheeler admits that even dwarf conifers have flung their fling: he stocks only Juniperus communis 'Compressa', a spiky little upright juniper which, in the hunger of a trough, will make as little as lain in height in ten years. and is therefore invaluable.

Unlike conifers, however, hebes are evergreens which flower well. We have hebes in flower from late April until October. Baby Marie is always the first, in late April. It is only lft high and covers itself in pale lilac flowers. But for a long season going on into the autumn it is hard to beat 'Nicola's Blush', a pink variety which fades to two-tone white."

May to July is the main flowering period for dwarf hebes, with a few coming after that. One of the Wheelers' recommendations is Hebe recurva, which flowers in August and September, when few other shrubs are at their peak. It has narrow, grey leaves an inch or more long, and stubby spikes of white flowers.

I grew half a dozen of these plants Ift apart, in a block, in a raised bed in Northumberland. They took every wind that blew and never looked any the worse for that. After ten years of generous flowering, the group was still only a couple of feet high, and starting to lean out attractively over the edge of the bed. The plants had never been pruned, apart from some ninching out of tips in the first couple of years to make them bushy.

could not tell Mrs Wheeler this. She is firmly in the pruning school of hebe growers. "All hebes, apart from

the whipcord-like varieties - whose leaves have been reduced by nature to the appearance of scaly stems must be pruned after flowering; just a haircut all over, to take off the old flower heads," And I am sure she is right. If flower power is the main aim, hebes need a haircut, like heather.

Pruning keeps

them denser. Hebe vernicosa: easy to grow species, Hebe subalpina, with apple leaves which, Mrs Wheeler says, is inclined to become bare at the centre. It needs its leading tips pinched regularly to keep its inner stems covered. Pinching produces

shoots which cross back over into the

centre, hiding the baldness. Hebes have a lot in common with heathers. They are neat, tidy, hummocky plants, good for a decade or so of service in the garden. It is no surprise that the Wheelers get regu-lar requests not just for plants for troughs, but for a planting plan to go with them. It is a service they are pleased to provide because so often. in a trough, one low plant - bought as an "alpine" — will turn rampant and smother its cohabitants.

The appeal of true dwarfs is that they stay neat and tidy, do not get out of hand and, if suitably chosen, can coexist happily for many years.

It was this appeal which drew a customer. Mrs Judy Foster, to ask the H. vernicosa and pauciramosa,



مكذا من الاصل

Wheelers to design a planting of dwarfs and alpines for the troughs and sinks in her new garden nearby. Dwarf hebes can be used like heathers, in a bed on their own, and, in these circumstances, it is important to make the most of textures. As well as the dense hummocks of hebes such as H. topiaria (12in-34in), there are more open textured varieties like H. pimeloldes 'Quicksilver' (18in). which has blackish, arching stems covered in tiny silvery blue leaves. You might almost take this one for a

species of broom or cotoneaster. Then there are the species, such as

which hold their leaves out in four directions up the stem. And there are the whipcord hebes, such as H. hectorii (lbin) and 'James Stirling' (loin), with their scaly "stems".

Hebes are easy to grow, "Any soil will do, so long as it is not too dry or waterlogged. The whipcords especially hate drought."

Hebes are certainly easy to propagate. I knew an old man in central London who used to cut 18in branches off the large-flowered hybrids in spring, stick them in the ground in a shady place and, with regular squirts from a hose, they grew away the same season. In autumn he would

move them into the full sun. Even the Wheelers do not use rooting hormone for most species. They take their cuttings year at about a couple in inches long under polythene, with no artificial bottom heat in summer, though covering does speed up the process in winter. But for most of us, late summer is the

easiest time for cuttings. Siskin Plants, Davey Lane, Charsfield. Woodbridge, Suffolk IP13 7QG (01473 737567), offers several collections of dwarf and aipine plants, including two dwarf hebe collections

GARDEN ANSWERS



STEPHEN ANDERTON replies to readers' letters

This winter I have prepared my garden for turling. Should I lay it now or wait until March? The soil is dry and sandy and I am worried about drought if I leave it too long - Dr Jane Davis, West Kirby, Cheshire.

A The reason for recom-mending. March is that the turf is then making new roofs in the spring warmth which will establish quickly. The sconer it is rooted the sooner you can use the lawn. If you want to lay it before then, and can find the turf, go ahead, but you will need to keep off it until it is established. This way the minute the roots start to grow they will begin to establish in situ. Avoid doing this work in frosty weather. If you want to lay very fine, expensive turf, the result may be better when laid in March.

My son is building a conservatory and wants to put in a water supply. Which is the lesser of two evils: a supply from a bore hole with a high lime content or a household supply treated by a water-softener containing salt? - Mrs S. Isa, St Peter. Jersey, Channel Islands.

A I would go for the softened supply. Salt is used in the purification but the resulting water is not saity. The sait serves to clean the ion exchange resins which do the work of taking out the lime. The resins also take out the magnesium ions, so in the long-term a balanced feeding program will be neces-sary. Limy water, though cheaper, would reduce the number of plants you could grow - no rhododendrons or camellias — and it also

encrusts on clay pots and on glass. Water-spray nozzles block, too. Softened water would be much cleaner, even if the pressure is less.

What tree or large shrub could I grow in ground saturated by an inefficient soakaway at a cesspit? The ground water will contain detergents as well as nutrients. The cesspit is in a paddock close to woodland. — Mrs M.P.Kirton, Bagshot, Surrey.

A The detergents should not be a problem. I assume that, at Bagshot, you are on acid soil, so if you want a splash of bright pink why not try some plants of the mountain laurel Kalmia latifolia. It loves good, rich, wet soil, and the icing-sugar pink flowers in midsummer are hugely attractive. As an evergreen it will draw water all year round. Alternatively, you could plant a deciduous conifer, such as the swamp cypress Taxodium distichum or the dawn redwood Metasequioa glyptostrob-oldes. Both have good au-turm colour. Willow trees, such as Salix alba and its forms, would do well, and could be pollarded to maximise the winter bark colour. If you wanted something shrubbier, say oft-10ft in all-over size, try Salix moupinensis or fargesti. Both have broad, glamorous, un-willow-like foliage and shining mahogany winter buds and bark.

• Readers should write to: Garden Answers, Weekend, The Times, I Pennington St. London El 9XN. We regret that it may not be possible to deal with every request. Advice is offered without legal responsibility. The Times also regrets that any enclosures counci be returned.

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extract from Geoff Hamilton's

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welcome back the new series of

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Jane Owen dips into her favourite guide to great British gardens — whether traditional, quirky or overrun by gnomes

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The Garden in Mind near Rowlands Castle, Hampshire

dens Scheme, which has turned us into a nation of garden voveurs and, some garden owners would maintain, plant thieves, celebrates its 70th year. Actually I think they are being modest and could, at a push, celebrate nearly 90 years.

Either way, it's done well: the scheme, which last year gave £1.3 million to the Royal Gardeners' Orphan Fund, the Good Samaritan Fund of the Gardeners' Royal Benevolent Society, and Cancer Relief Macmillan Fund among others, opened 3,500 gardens in England and Wales. Some are big. some tiny, some professional, some amateur, and some open only for the National Gardens Scheme or the Yellow Book as the annual garden directory is known.

The scheme's birthday calculation goes back to Elsie Wagg of the Queen's Institute of District Nurs-

WEEKEND TIPS

■ Divide and replant change of snowdrops and aconites into twos and dures while still in full leaf.

Protest early biossom on wall

unds of growth on wisteria.

ing an early start, such as sa, lobella and antirrhim

Sow over heat bedding plu

THE MALFON ISSUE BUT NO

This year the National Gar-ing, who in 1927 suggested opening gardens at sixpence a time to raise money for her organisation. At a push, the NGS could take its: inception back to Sir Frank Crisp, a solicitor who created a garden in Henley-on-Thames and charged sixpence a head which went to the Gardeners' Royal Benevolent Insti-totion, the Gardeners' Orphan Fund, and the Mayor of Henley's Convalescent Fund in the first decade of the century.

In many respects, his garden was typical of the eccentric gems still to be found in the Yellow Book. His was one of the first in this country to include gnomes and it also had an accurate scale model of the Matterhorn made from 20,000 tons of millstone grit.

The garden is well recorded and was truly odd in its landscaping. but the planting, according to contemporaries, was excellent -"the finest example of rock gardening outside the rupe. E.H.Jenkins in The Garden in 1912.

Today, it is closed to the public. This year, for a garden in the same league as Sir Frank's, try Ivan and Angie Hicks' The Garden In Mind on the Sussex/Hampshire border, which is surreal. Plants: sprout from desks and typewriters, trees and shrubs are contorted into strange shapes, pieces of hanging mirror twinkle between sculpture and sequois, and paths lead in and out of plants symbolishing Celtic mythology. For a traditional but brilliant garden, try Richard Nutr's near High Wycombe, which is home to the national collection of



Ivan Hicks with one of his sculptures in the mystic pool area at Groombridge Place, Kent, which is open to the public under the National Gardens Scheme

Laucojum as well as being famed for its huge variety of snowdrops, bellebores, crocus, speckled-leaved pink or blue-flowered pulmonarias (Mr Nutt bred the jamous Pulmonaria Barfield Regalia) and

autumn crocus. About 15 years ago when I first visited his garden, through the Yellow Book, Mr Nutt introduced me to willows - varieties of Sailx alba - pollarded close to the ground so that the colourful new growth gives spectacular colour in winter. He copied the technique from the gardener and author Valerie Finnis and from the Cam-

bridge Botanical Garden, but it is a technique used to its ultimate effectiveness by arranging red branched willows as the front of the bed, then the orange, and finally the brightest colour yellow.

For those whose family and friends are less than enthusiastic about garden visiting, check the "teas" entries. Tea and plant sales tend to raise more money than the entrance, and so, when teas are on offer, huge effort is put into making excellent cakes. They produce somnolence in reluctant garden visitors and ensure that outings will be

Richard Nutt's garden, Great GARDENS TO VISIT Barfield, Bradenham, Bucks

(4m NW of High Wycombe, 4m S of Princes Risborough), Open Feb 23, 2pm-5pm. Groombridge Place Gardens, Groombridge, Kent (4m south of Tunbridge Wells). Open March

28-October 26, i@am-opm. The Garden in Mind, Stansted Park, Rowlands Castle, Hants (3m NE of Havant). Open June 1 and September 1, 2-6pm.

Burncoose Nurscries, Cornwall (3m SE of Redruth on A393), which regularly exhibit at Royal Horricultural Society shows in London. Open March 16, 11am-5pm

George Plumptre's parents' garden at

Goodnestone Park, Kent. Open February 16 and March 16,

Joan Royd House, Penistone, Yorkshire, Sheffield (M1 junction 37, then A628). Open March

The National Garden Scheme Yellow Book. Gardens of England and Wales open for charity 1997, £3.50, is available from most good bookshops from the end of February. Or write to the National Gardens Scheme, Hatchlands Park, East Clandon, Guildford, Surrey GU4 7RT, with a cheque for £4.25. This year a few gardens will open in the evening. For a list write to the National Gardens

Scheme (above).

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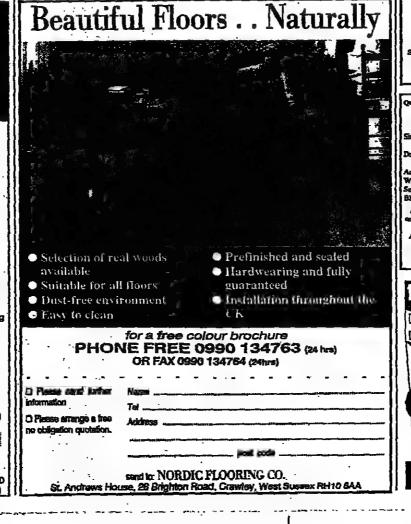
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Who will preserve for the nation those old country talents of swinging the mangel-singling hoe and dowsing for water with sticks?

عدد امن الاصل

and I have much in common, but we have. Both of us have reason to look sideways at Tony Blair, if not with demonic eyes then certainly with curious ones. American journalists have been quick to spot that many of Mr Blair's soundbites appear remarkably similar to those used in the recent presidential election by Mr Clinton.

I, on the other hand, find that an idea you read here first is now on the lips of the wannabe prime minister. Like Clinton. I am modestly shrugging it off. Imitation is the sincerest form of flattery.

It was Mr Blair's recent promise to found a "National Trust for Talent" that had a familiar ring to it. I remember, at the time that our farm was being dismantled, voicing concerns over what would happen to my aged farmworker friend. Dilly. He was master of the mangel-singling hoe, and to see him going along a row of growing mangelwurzels, chopping out the weeds and surplus plants, was as fine a feast to the eye as any ballet. I feared Dilly would be lost to the nation if the National Trust did not take him on. I wanted more emphasis

Now Blair's pinched my idea

on preserving old talents, less on preserving old bricks and mortar. There are any number of rural skills

which are in the increasingly stiff old hands of men and women who will take the secret with them to the grave. My NTT would preserve them to pass the knack on. Alas, I discovered that Mr Blair's heart was more on the screen and stage than in the ditch or atop the muckheap. The picture accompanying his announcement showed him exchanging confidences with Lord Attenborough. would rather it had been Lord

Never mind, if it is only theatrical skills which will get National Talent Trust Money, we have them, too. Dickie Altenborough would have enjoyed the latest display of gusto, slapping of thighs and "behind yous" by the Southwold and Reydon Pantomine Society. Some of the jokes were less National Trust than British Museum, but it was a remark-

from an amateur, enand we chortled all the way from topical jests about the royal yacht to a lady who brought the house down with a glimpse ers. We think she's a nurse at the hospital, or works in the fruit

But even at the

panto I worried. The script was a reworking of the story of Jack and Jill, which centres on the fetching of pails of water. This is no longer a joking matter. The present concern in arid eastern England is that there will very soon be no water at all, it has not rained properly for months, and so when I should have been joining

DOWN TO EARTH



iso'ts", my troubled mind was on other matters. And other

Some years ago I. met a dowser. These. gifted individuals are able to detect, by means not given to all, the presence of underground water. This chap was re-markable. He told the tale of a painstaking geological study to establish the

whereabouts of much-needed water on one of the Isles of Scilly. A university team, on the basis of extensive research, named the favoured spot and drilling commenced. Not a drop. The dowser suggested a spot 50 yards to the north and, before they had gone very far, there

the blushes of any geologist. It is a gift, bestowed on more people than you might imagine. You may have it. Much to my surprise, I apparently have

The dowser placed a forked hazel twig in my hands, showed me how to grip it and, eyes closed, off I walked across a field like a nervous child playing pin-thetail-on-the-donkey. I swear that hazel twig developed a mind of its own halfway across that field.

uch was the violence of its move-ment that it became difficult to hold. The dowser told me to open my eyes. I was standing next to a trough and had just crossed the underground water pipe which fed it.

Whatever talent it is, we are going to need more of it, given that the Yellow Pages are devoid of dancing rainmakers. We need people who can sniff out what water there is. But if the talent has gone

to the grave, as have so many others,

then what are we going to do?

Perhaps we should all practise. If you cannot get the hazel twig you will certainly be able to lay your hands on a wire coathanger. Cut two L-shaped rods and place them into sleeves you can hold; dowelling with a hole drilled down the middle would be ideal. The rods must be able to move freely. Hold one in each hand, the prongs horizontal so that any movement is due to forces other than gravity. Then set off on your search.

If you come near water, expect the rods to waggle with no help from you. The secret is not in the rods: your mental state is paramount and if you embark on your dowsing in the "it will never work for me, don't I look silly frame of mind, you

might as well not try.

I am practising, against the day Jack and Jill climb all the way up the hill and find a note of apology from the chairman

of the water company.

Mr Clinton, on the other hand, is probably grasping a springy twig at this very moment and running it over Tony Blair's speeches, to see if anything familiar starts to twitch.

For peat's sake let's use bracken

The fight is on to conserve our peat bogs and make use of the self-renewing weed that chokes the countryside

onsider a paradox. This weekend many people will prepare for spring with a visit to their garden centre. There they will innocently buy bags of an irreplaceable biological deposit, the foundation to rich and rare wet habitats of international botanical value, to use as potting compost, mulch or soil conditioner.

At the same time, a pernicious weed, a health hazard to beast and possibly man, is left more or less unchecked to choke and smother delicate flora and fauna and overrun an area of heath and moorland the size of Yorkshire.

At the same time an irrethe foundation to rich and rare wet habitats of international botanical value, is routinely dug up. put into bags and will be sold at garden centres all over Britain this weekend to fill flowerpots.

The ideal solution would be for the accursed bracken to be cut down and substituted for precious peat, solving two problems with imetaphorically) one sweep of the scythe. Nature doesn't deal in ideal

solutions? Just for once it does. In trials in the New Forest, bracken is made into a compost which performed as well as peat in nursery experiments. Given the chance to buy, the public clean out available stocks.

There may be enough bracken, a self-renewing and sustainable resource, to re-place much of the I.5 million cubic metres of peat still being won in Britain, the greater part from raised peat bog sites of special scientific interest.

Bracken was once a prized commodity. In medieval times it was burnt to make potash. Then its ashes were used in the manufacture of glass, soap, detergent and bricks. It was harvested for fuel and used as thatch. It was cut as bedding for cattle and pigs until well into this century. As its use and with the decrease in cattle grazing, which kept it in check, bracken began to overrun grassland and hillside.

It is now a widespread and confounded nuisance. Bracken covers about 7 per cent of the land area of Great Britain. On some hill farms in Wates, up to 40 per cent of potential grazing area is bracken-infested. It is a big problem on national nature reserves. where in places it grows so densely that all lesser plant life

is extinguished. The New Forest is an appropriate site for a last stand against bracken. The Forestry Commission is legally obliged

COLOURFUL AND FRAGRANT, LILIES ARE AN ASSET TO ANY GARDEN

to keep the 2,000 or so hectares of forest grassland subject to bracken invasion open as grazing land for commoners' horses and cattle. For the past three years. Dr Rona Pitman. an environmental consultant. has advised the commission on a regime for harvesting bracken on about 65 hectares of grassland. The bracken, mechanically harvested in September as it begins to die back, is gathered into a heap to compost. It is left for about ten months, and turned several times. Temperatures inside reach as high as 70C, sufficient to kill any residual toxins and organisms. (Bracken spores are a carcinogen in animals possibly in humans, though no link has been proved Bracken also harbours the tick that spreads Lyme disease. It affects about 150 people a year

the commission produces about 1,000 cubic metres of composted bracken, which it sells locally as soil improver or mulch at £12 a cubic metre.

in Britain and can be fatal.

in tests which Dr Pitman conducted with Horticulture Research international at Efford, Hampshire, bracken compost compared favourably with all other composts. It has



Rona Pitman, an environmental consultant, with Harry Oram (left) and Dave Morris of the Forestry Commission at a bracken site in the New Forest

a low pH and is particularly suitable for acid-loving plants. such as heather and rhododendron. "Gardeners in the know have used bracken on a small scale throughout history for pot-growing and hardy plants, and it has been used as a surface mulch in large public gardens," Dr Pitman says. But we were the first to my it out on a scientific basis."

In separate trials, part funded by the EU at four farms near Crickhowell, in southeast Wales, bracken was mixed with poultry manure and composted for three months. "It produced an excellent compost," says Professor Jim Tay-lor. Emeritus Professor of Geography at the University of Wales, Aberystwyth, whose company. Environmental Consultants, directed the work. "Manure from turkeys and battery chickens enhances the beautiful fibrous matrices

ALONG the firths on the east coast of

Scotland there are great wintering populations of seabirds and waders. I

had a view of some of them on the Firth

I was at a remarkable bird reserve at

Musselburgh Lagoons, only a few miles along the coast east of Edin-burgh. The electricity company Scot-

tish Power owns a coal-fired power

station a little further east at Cockenzie.

which for more than 30 years has been

sending its ash waste - pulverised fuel ash, as it is called - through under-

ground water pipes down to the lagoon.

area. In the course of those years, the

company has converted the resulting

ash deposits at Musselburgh into a

bird reserve, a boating pool and a

The ash is still flowing, and the

surviving lagoons will one day be filled in and landscaped too. But the large

area that has been laid out as shallow

pools and mud scrapes specifically as a

bird reserve will be kept permanently,

raised our field-glasses, telescopes

landscaped area of grass and trees.

of Forth last week.





The mechanically cut bracken can be stacked like a hayrick, and then used as compost

provided by bracken. In our view it is superior to peat." There are two ways to deal with bracken. Cutting it green in the summer over several years weakens it so much that it can be eradicated with the selective herbicide Asulox. The second approach is to treat it

cut for compost when it is dying back in the autumn. However the continuing popularity of peat, despite vigorous campaigning by conservationists, suggests there will be a big consumer switch only if it can compete on cost. The present economics of

meet or undercut the low price

miles of the production point. Before bracken becomes nationally available, further trials need to be conducted in other parts of Britain, where 'climate and soil variations may affect yield, particularly

of peat if it is sold within 50

England and in Scotland. Dr Pitman has approached, unsuccessfully, almost every official funding body operating in the countryside, from the Ministry of Agriculture downwards, to underwrite the cost of pilot projects.

Professor Taylor estimates that the bracken harvest in Wales alone could create a market worth millions of pounds. "It is the same elsewhere in Britain. Bracken can be cut on boulder-free land, provided the slope is less than

30 degrees," he says.
"I'm told there is enough bracken to cut on the North Yorks Moors to fill Cardiff Arms Park. But we do need money to launch and enhance this activity, which must be on a big scale if we are to turn a problem into a product."

GARETH HUW

Buy half-price lilies

and solid stems make them excellent for cutting. Given a reasonably drained position, they will thrive for years. We have four different varieties on offer to Times readers. Atlantis with its large, marked petals: fragrant and strong growing White four packs for the price of two.

I ILIES not only look fabulous, they're Americana, with up to five flowers per Leasy to grow. And their shapely blooms and solid stems make them excellent for outlined in white; and Freckle Girl with distinctive freekles on a soft background. Each pack has five bulbs and cost just £5.99. Alternatively, treat yourself to one pack of each variety for only £11.98 - that's

The Times Lilies Offer CITY CPERITEM TOTALS 25.97 A - Part of 5 Stargare Likes 25.90 65.99 C - Pack of 5 Piol. Atlanta Lines - Party of Sirenda (ed Libes

as will the boating pool. The reserve has a full-time warden, Dave Allan, an omithologist, who is employed by Scottish Power and the East Lothian District Council to control the scrapes and pools and monitor the birds. He also keeps a sea eye open. because the reserve is just behind the sea-wall, and divers and grebes, duck and auks, are constantly to be seen out in the Firth. The wind was blowing strong and cold, but a skylark was singing as we made our way beneath the banks of the reserve to what Mr Alian knew to be a good vantage-point. Then we cautious-

and heads above the bank. An amazing spectacle confronted us. Five brent geese - birds rarely seen so

FEATHER REPORT

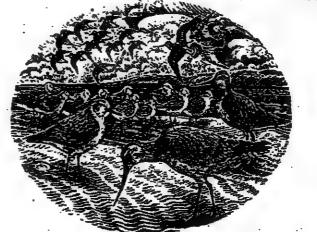
Power base for Scottish invaders

far north - immediately took off and winged their way up the coast towards Edinburgh. In the corner of the shallow pool to our left, four ruffs --the most elegant of waders, with their long pink legs and haughty-looking. upright stance - were feeding delicately on the mud.

Along the front of an island, a

would lift its pointed wings for a moment, or even fly a few feet, but for the most part the whole mass of waders just shifted comfortably around the tiny island. A few brawny. herring-gulls sat placidly among them. Next, echoing calls drew our atten-

tion to a party of curlews wading in shallow water far over to the right, their curved beaks silhouetted against



Knots and godwits crowd along the shore at Musselburgh Lagoons

plump and hunchbacked — were shuffling to and fro at the water's edge. Behind them rose the tall figures of almost as many bar-tailed godwits. crowding along the back of the island. Their long, upturned bills, pink at the base, waved gracefully above the heads of the knots. I had never seen such a large flock of them before.

Occasionally a bird of either species

the bright surface. There was a group of dualins, a turnstone and a ringer plover on the far shore, while behind them dozed a large black-and-white flock of oystercatchers.

Now it was time for the sea. We passed the boating pool, which had no boats on it this afternoon, but a flock of about 80 widgeon. We also passed a grassy pit, where lour twites - the little

yellow-beaked linnets of the north were taking refuge from the wind.

Just over the sea-wall, where the water was at high tide, handsome eiders were floating about. Then we suddenly saw a bird to match the godwits in excitement. Swimming just few yards out was a large alertlooking bird with a long, sharp beak and a dappled, silvery back. It was a red-throated diver - unmistakable at this range, because the typical upward tilt of that long beak was so obvious. It dived into the choppy water, and a long time seemed to pass before it surfaced again, much further out.

A long-tailed duck flew in and landed, and far away we picked out with Mr Allan's ocean-ranging telescope both a Slavonian and a rednecked grebe, riding between the waves and only visible for a split second at a time. Like every ornithological host, he was wringing his hands in dismay at what we had not seen but should have done - common and velvet scoters, perhaps a glaucous gull, perhaps a peregrine falcon. However, for me it had been a spectacular tally.

If you go to Musselburgh Lagoons, just off the Al, you will find notices round the reserve saying "Private". But Mr Allan does not mind birdwatchers going in - providing they keep below the banks, and let the birds, too, enjoy this strange, Scottish ash-made haven.

DERWENT MAY *

♦ What's about: Birders — Look out for rooks returning to their tree-top colonies and starting to build or reconstruct nests. and starting to butta or reconstruct nesss.
Twitchers — Bonapane's gull, Drift
Reservoir, Corawall; white-tailed eagle,
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scaup, Tophill Low, East Yorkshire. Details
from Birdline 0891 700222. Calls cost 40p a minute cheap rate. 50p at all other times.

Exactly where the money came from to build this fine house is uncertain, but there's talk of opium deals.



Flass, in the Eden Valley, was built in the mid-1800s and, it is said, "cost a syte o' brass"

The mansion of mystery

poet writing in the 19th century about Flass, the grand mansion at Maulds Meaburn in the Eden Valley, did not have to think too hard to find a rhyme that fitted the bill. The couplet, as recalled by one local, went something like. "You mansion house called Flass, it cost a syte o' brass. . . "
That would hardly engage

him among the Lake Poets, more McGonagall than Wordsworth, but it did sum up local attitudes towards a mystery in the days when drug barons were recognised a being more enterprising than raffish. History has it that one Lancelot Dent, tea merchant and entrepreneur of the China trade, made a fortune from opium and that the laundered" proceeds went into transforming Flass from a yeoman farmer's house into one of the grandest mansions in the county.

The present owner, Mal-colm Whiteside, says that although ostensibly it was Lancelot's sister who, in the mid-19th century, began the project to reshape Flass, no one knows why she did so on such a grand scale, or quite

where the money came from... Her two brothers, Lancelot end Wilkinson Dent, had grown wealthy from the tea trade, but the commosity in strongest demand in China at the time was illicit opium. Lancelot was reckoned to be something of a star performer in this field, so successful that his arrest was demanded by the Chinese viceroy in Canton." Mr Whiteside says. "History has it that he held 100. chests of opium when the next biggest trader had a mere ten chests. Lancelot wisely kept his head down but the threat of his arrest led, it is said, to

the Opium Wars between Britain and China. With such a history locked behind its high walls and Palladian façade, Flass has always intrigued visitors to this valley. The entry gates are guarded by a pair of armorial beasts, a tiger and a unicorn, carved in stone, and the drive leads to an imposing portico where carriages once made stately arrival. On my visit, a Mini was parked there out of

invaders



The fine central hall is high with mock-marble columns

the torrential rain that swelled the River Lyvennet flowing alongside the property and gushed in tocrents over a montage of giant clam shells brought back by the Dent brothers from the Par East.

This was not the day to see Plass at its best. But I have stood on the lawn on a mus, a local choir, gathered in the ornate drawing room to sing madrigals, the sound drawing through the tall windows and mingling with the whisper of the river. That was Flass as it

This time the skies opened and Flass lived up to its name, deriving from the middle English word for a iake or marsh. Presumably, the Lyvennet once took a more aggressive course through the 15-acre grounds. The only music came from the wind howling against trees shelter-ing the house, among them a towering Sequola Wellingtonia planted after the battle of Waterloo. The tree stands as straight as the general in commemorates and survived undamaged in the Battle of the

Great Gale in 87. We settled before an open fire in the library. It is a cosy room with a secret door in a

HOUSE .

Flass, Maulds Meabum, Cumbria Price: Offers around £750,000 ● Setting: On the edge of one of the prettiest villages in Cumbria, with the Lake District hills just over the horizon • Shopping: Penrith, an expanding market town on the M6, with the west coast main away by road • Entertainment: Local societies and, perhaps, your own thoughts

faux-livres panel through which maids bearing tea would materialise in the days

of the Dents. Mr Whiteside and Mary, his wife, described their years keeping the Grade II* listed mansion up to scratch. "The house was handed down the Dent family line until it reached Sir Robert Dent, clerk of public bills at the House of Commons. It was then sold along with most of its treasures — superb paintings, bronzes and, supposedly, the only mandarin's bed in the

Western world, upon which one could imagine Lancelot languishing in an opiate haze, if he ever touched the stuff. The bed has since been restored and now rests in the Durham University Museum

of Oriental Art. The Whitesides bought Flass in 1982, when Mr Whiteside, a solictor, retired. Mrs Whitehouse was a nurse so, with her mother, they ran the house as a care home, for which the eight bedrooms with en suite bathrooms and a maze of other rooms was ideal.

Unfortunately, they ran up against new fire regulations; something to do with "travelling distance" between some of the beds and the bedroom

"New regulations seem to come in a steady stream with every post, so Flass is now on the market. It could have all kinds of uses; anything from a family home to an exclusive restaurant or small conference centre," Mr Whiteside says. Though the house would benefit from a lick of paint, Flass retains its grand proportions and features. A flight of pol-ished limestone steps leads from the entrance hallway into a high, square central hall with richly coloured mock-marble columns. Statues of the Goddess Ceres and an Uffizi Venus replica regard one another across the space.

lass was built at a time when the production of sheet glass had been thoroughly mastered and the architect took full ge of this. Many of the ground floor rooms have narrow, stylish windows reaching from floor to high ceiling, and the view radiates from the central hall in all directions. A long hallway with elegant, barrel-vaulted ceiling ends in high French windows that lead into what was once a conservatory and is now a charming, sheltered corner that opens out into a garden surrounding a pool. The grandest rooms at Flass are the saloon and drawing rooms, which form a T-shape

that may be used as one open space or separated by large panels that fold into the wall. The Dent brothers spared

no expense on the decoration here, with ornate marble fireplaces, extravagant architrav-



Above: Malcolm and Mary Whiteside in the magnificently furnished library. Below left: fit for a family banquet, the 39ft 6in dining room, with tall French doors

the trader baron, recalling, in

an after-dinner haze of cigar

smoke, his brush with the

ing and mirrored shutters to of opium. How exactly he came by this formidable sucprotect the windows. Quality and prestige shine in brass hinges, marble decor, elaboply is not recorded, but it would have no doubt caused him a wry smile, considering rate Italian plasterwork, ivory door handles and push plates. his interest in poppies, that a latter-day Dent would found The dining room next door the Wild Flower Society. reflects the same air of opulence and I imagined Lancelot,

RONALD FAUX

Agent: Strutt and Parker, 13 Princes Square, Harrogal North Yorkshire HG1 ILW (01423 561274).

Emperor of China over the matter of supplying 100 chests FOR SALE SCHOOL HOUSES

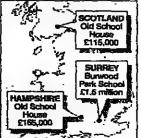


SURREY: Burwood Park School and College, nea Wellon-on-Themes, Former residential achool with a Grade II isted 19th-century mansion and further buildings providing 53,500sq ft of accommodation, in six acres. Detached four-bedroom headmaster's house, modern purpose-built sports hall, garages, workshops and stores. Playing field and tennis court. Offers over £1.5 million (Knight Frank, 0171-629 8171)



scenic Borders hills. Three bedrooms, two bathrooms (one en suite), drawing room, dining room, kitchen and utility/closkroom.





HAMPSHIRE: Old School House, Ecchinswell, Converted Imma school house with a well-stocked garden, in a small village, southeast of Newbury, close to the foot of Watership Down, Two bedrooms, bathroom, sitting room, kitchen and utility. About £165,000 (John D. Wood, 01635 523225)

CHERYL TAYLOR

Splash of art in the bathroom

Can't find the decorative wall tiles or picture

panel you really want? Then why not commission an artist - or make your own

Susan Esterbrook wanted a decorative tile panel for her bathroom but nothing in the shops or catalogues seemed right. So she took the plunge and commissioned a ceramic artist, Paul Scott, to make one from stratch. In the bathroom she wanted the

feeling of slipping into a different world, so the decorative panel of tiles looks like the sea, complete with fish and boats. For added interest, there are some words from the Rupert Brooke fishy poem Heaven.
The panel is made up of 500 tiles, is 230cm (about 7ft 6in) high and runs

along three sides of the bath. Mr Scott, the curator of "Hot off the Press". a forthcoming exhibition about ceramics and print at the Crafts Council in London, worked on Mrs Esterbrook's commission over

several months. He first drew the design on paper and then marked out the tile shapes and the grouting lines. Next he photographed the whole piece, cut out all the shapes and used them as templates to cut out the files from

His minimum charge is £750-£1,000 a square metre but, he says. the larger the budget the more detailed and elaborately glazed a piece can be. Decorative wall panels can be made for most rooms in the house and outside walls, too.

Mr Scott's advice to people considering commissioning is: Because it is an individual work

of art, be mindful of the time it will

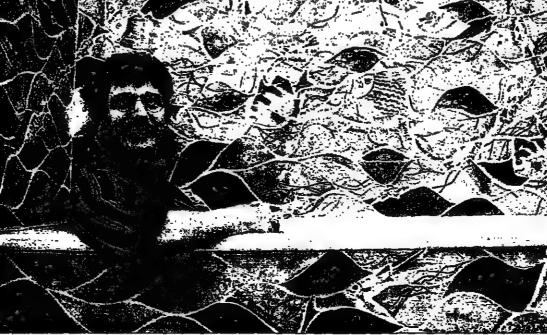
Make sure you and the artist have agreed on the panel's design, the timetable of events for its execution and the cost.

Whatever you commission, make sure the tiles are suitable for the purpose, especially if they are for

Decorative Tile Works, of Ironbridge Gorge, Shropshire, also does commissions, with customers putting forward their own ideas or relying on designers at the firm. The price of a decorative panel varies considerably, but the managing di-rector, Michael Kay, says that one large enough to go behind an Aga cooker—with a decorative element of

about one metre square - might be about £1,500-£2,000. For those who want to learn how to decorate plain ceramic tiles and make panels themselves the com-pany, which has made large num-bers of tiles for the Harrods food hall, holds one and two-day workshops most weekends.

A one-day workshop costs £37.50. You have the use of eight tiles which you can decorate as a panel or days. Then they take them away to.



Paul Scott with his design for a decorative tiled bathroom panel which pictures the sea, fish and boats

individually. The mailing of tiles to your home after firing costs £8. Two-day workshops, with 16 tiles, cost £70, plus £10 mailing. The price of a course includes all materials.

One of the techniques you learn at the workshops is how to "pounce". This means pricking out the design on a piece of paper with a sharp needle and then pressing charcoal through the holes to mark the tile. You follow that dotted line when you "tube line" the tile - squeeze clay out of a rubber pouch to form a line. The charcoal dots are burnt away during the firing. The glazing and firing process comes next.

"Most people on a workshop course aim to decorate just three tiles in a day and a six-tile nanel over two

put up in their homes or give them away as presents," says Mr Kay, adding: "We get some people asking us if the tiles will be all right behind their cookers because of the heat. When you consider at what temperature the tiles have been fired I can't imagine what temperature they must be cooking at."

There is another pleasure in attending a workshop at the Decorative Tile Works: it is housed in what is considered the most complete Victorian tile factory still standing, and in the same premises as the Jackfield Tile Museum, one of the Ironbridge Gorge Museums, with its collection of 13.000 Victorian, Art Nouveau and

CHRISTIAN DYMOND those who work with ceramics.

■ Decorative Tile Works, 01952 884627 for inquiries about workshops, 01952 884124 for other

TILEFILE

"Hot off the Press" exhibition, Crafts Council, London (0171-806 2500), March 6-April 20, Tues-Sat llam-6pm, Sun 2-6pm. Free. The reference desk at the Crafts Council is open during gallery opening hours (as above) and has lists of craftmakers and courses. AXIS (0113-283 3125, equail: axis@gn.apc.org) has a visual artists database, the National Artists Register, containing the name of more than 1,900 artists, including

. هِ كَذَا مِن الأمهل

Des res with high interest

Converting a redundant bank into a home can pay dividends for people who want something different

drinks cabinet is 10ft by 8ft with 2ft-thick walls. She can only get to her champagne and spirits through two double-turn key locks, two circle-action door wheels, the weight of an Ilinthick metal door run through with six steel bolts and a fulllength iron grille.

Irs not that Ms Teasdale is mean with the drinks. Until March 1995, her home at Thames Ditton in

Surrey, NatWest bank, and the drinks cabinet was the bank's vault. "To open the vault, two keys had to be turned simultaneously by two that no one person could get to the deed boxes and money bags," Ms Teasdale

says. "We wanted to open out a vault wall but the builder said it would take a diamond-tipped drill to get through all that reinforced steel."

The shakedown in the banking industry has seen a steady off-loading of redundant banks and Ms Teasdale is among the first wave of buyers to convert one into a home. In 1985, Britain had 14,289 banks. according to the British Bankers' Association. Ten years later there were 10,801.

Professor Philip Molyneux. director of the Institute of European Finance at Bangor. Wales, estimates that by the year 2000 the number of bank branches in Britain will be down to 8,000. With Internet and tele-banking, the sub-contracting of credit-card pro-cessing and the regionalisation of back-office operations. many traditional banking halls are unnecessary," he

The Lloyds/TSB merger will eventually off-load at least another 300-100 high-street

Teasdale's banks on to the property market." he adds.

But most high-street bank premises are not suitable for home conversion. Many sit like full stops on corner sites on the edge of busy shopping parades. "Local authorities are loath to destroy shopping frontage," says Philip Waterfield, a director of Stretton Chartered Surveyors in London's East End. They have to maintain the commer-

The walls are so tough that

power tools bounce off them'

cial street scene and they like

having the butcher, the baker and candlestick maker." This

is why some former bank

buildings re-emerge as veteri-

nary or doctors' surgeries or wine bars and pubs (Bass

Taverns has stripped out 12

banks in the past two years for

Mr Waterfield identifies

semi-rural branches and oth-

this second category, three partial conversions of old banks in east London — St

James' Street, El7; East India

Dock Road, El4; and Mare

Street, E8 - have recently

Ms Teasdale's former

NatWest branch was classed

as semi-rural because it was

detached and next to the Milk

Marketing Board headquar-

ters at Thames Ditton, over-

looking Giggs Hill Green. The

become homes.

their All Bar One pubs).

23-acre HQ is now being demolished. Ms Teasdale no-ticed the bank was for sale and knew that the building — built in 1939 as a National Provincial bank - was not listed "I stood on the green one

day and said, 'I'm going to live there', 'she says. "My partner said we could turn it into an office, but I thought I'd have it as a house."

A covenant on the property restricted future commercial use to banking. Ms

Teasdale paid £177,000 for the building in a sealed-envelope bid and wondered what she had done. "I phoned my bank manager and said, "I've just bought a bank"." All the windows

had iron bars, which have since been removed, inthe double-height banking hall, which had white hanging globe lights (still there). There were

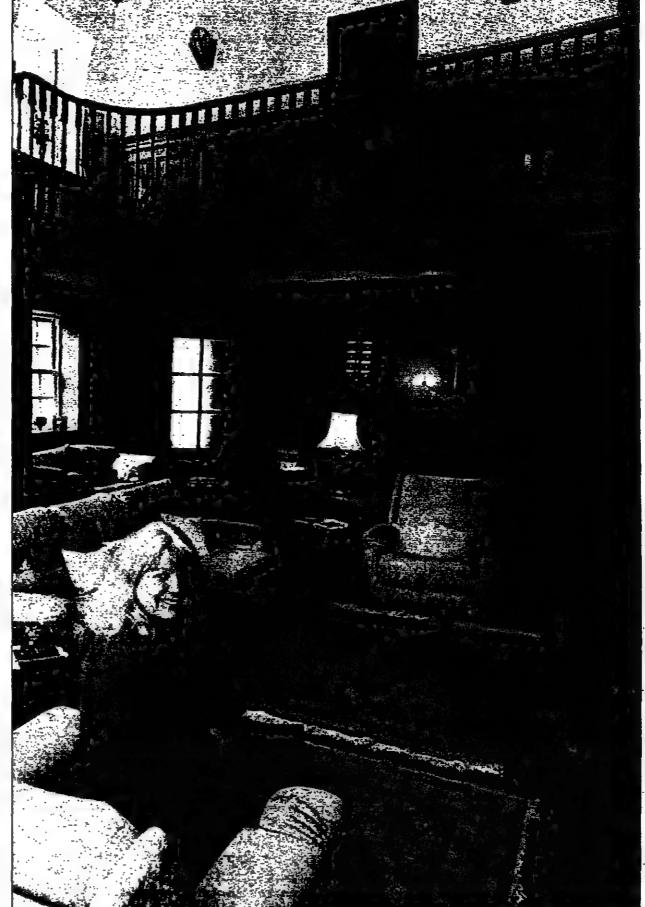
two strong rooms, a men's lavatory, a money lift and a Chubb nightsafe, but no kitchen or bathroom. The walls are so tough that

the builders' power tools bounced off them." Ms Teasdale says. "We had to use special screws to put up Elmbridge Council, the local authority, approved the

bank's change of use and the application went through ers abutting long parades as the most likely to be granted a residential change of use. In "very smoothly". From the village point of view it was much nicer that it was turned into a home," she says. Ms Teasdale was worried

that the bank would not work out as a four-bedroom home. "When we first saw the building it had a commercial feel and was very austere from the outside," she says. "But with all the renovation work it now feels like a house."

ALEX WIJERATNE



Lynda Teasdale at home in her former NatWest bank. "It was very austere at first but now it feels like a house",

PROPERTY NEWS

Du Maurier house for sale

■ THE birthplace of novelist Daphne du Maurier is for sale. The Grade I listed semidetached villa at 50 Cumberland Terrace, Regent's Park, central London was built by James Burton, under the direction of John Nash. It has six bedrooms and a courtyard. Price on application. Contact Strutt & Parker, 0171-629 7282

■ THE rentals market is booming, according to the latest report from agent Hamptons International. The number of transactions in the final quarter of 1996 was 28 per cent higher than the same period in 1995, while the number of properties for rent in London fell by 20 per cent. Only Pimlico bucked the trend, with an 18 per cent increase in properties available. And according to agent Knight Frank, proximity to good public transport links can increase rental values by up to 50 per cent in London.

THE BBC is looking for period properties as a back-drop to its forthcoming adaptation of Tom Jones. Although Strutt & Parker's film location. agency has 1,000 rural properties on its books, there is a shortage of country houses close to London to star in the growing number of costume dramas. Star-struck home owners should call 01635 \$21707 for information.

HOUSE prices in Northern Ireland increased by 15.3 per cent last year, according to a report from the University of Ulster and Ulster Bank. The average price of a ter-raced house rose 23.5 per cent in 1996 while that of a detuched bungalow increased by 17.7 per cent.

PROPERTY investment funds are turning to residential property, says agent Blenheim Bishop, whose Mayfair division exchanged contracts on £25 million worth of houses in the past ten weeks. Most of these were for investment purposes because the strong lettings market pro-vides high and constant

AMANDA LOOSE

CAMPDEN HILL ROAD Kensington, W8 A well present west facing Grade II listed Georgian house with an attractive garden 4/5 bedroom 2 bathrooms 2/3 reception rooms Freehold £625,000 KENSINGTON: 0171-727 0705



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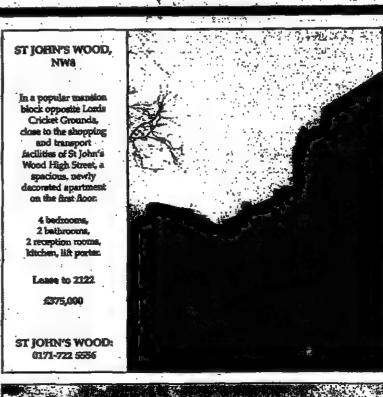
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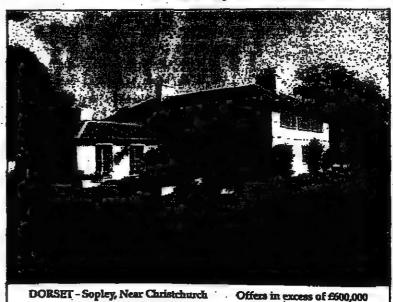
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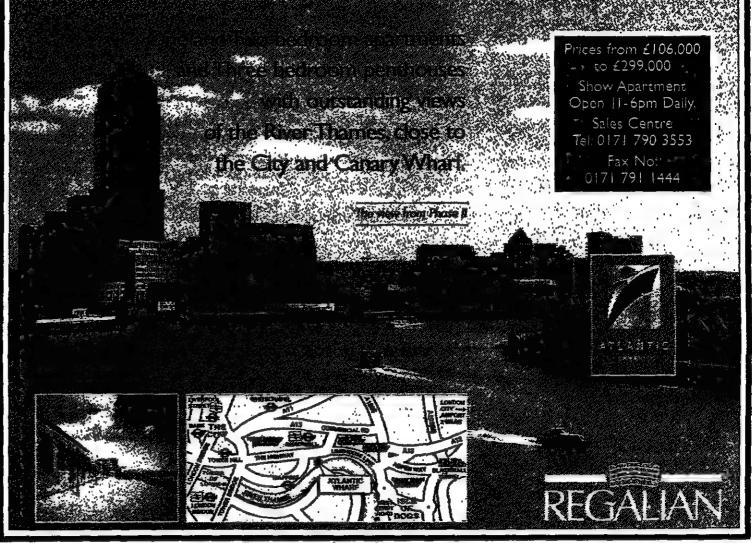
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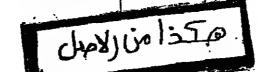
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upset to take it in.

I have just had to have Q my lovely collic put to sleep, aged 12. The vet said he had Cushing's syndrome and diabetes. Can you explain Cushing's simply please? My vet tried to but it seemed complicated and I was too

Cushing's syndrome is a A malfunction of the adrenal glands - two tiny organs alongside the kidneys which secrete several hormones. It

occurs when some of them are produced in excess. This happens if there's a tumour in the

adrenal gland, or because hormones from the pituitary

gland overstimulate the adrenals. Prolonged use of corticosteroid type medicines can trigger Cushing's syn-

drome. Treatment is not satis-

factory and there is nothing

that can be done to prevent it.

You were right to put your dog

to sleep. You couldn't offer

Our seven-year-old lab-rador has suffered from

interdigital cysts for several

him an acceptable life.

Gone fishing and I may be some time

Forget golf, in Russia the obsessive male pastime is ice-fishing, leaving

thousands of angling widows home alone

ith the slow, deliberate movements of a veteran, Sasha trudged across the vast expanse of snow and ice stretched out before him and selected a desolate spot near the shoreline for his afternoon's battle against the fish and the elements. Placing the tip of a mansize metal corkscrew on the frozen river surface he began drilling a neat circular hole in the ice before finally dipping his line, hook and

bait into the dark icy waters below.

This is one of life's great pleasures," said the beaming Muscovite, perched on a tiny stool, his legs stretched out either side of the hole in a position favoured by the icefishing fraternity. Like dozens of other men dotted on the bleak winter landscape, Sasha had sneaked off work early on Friday for what promised to be a solitary weekend. Huddled against the wind on the Moscow river he only had other serious-minded fishermen for company, a dour and motley group who rarely exchanged more than a nod or a grunt of recognition.

"Here you forget the problems of work, the problems at home, the nagging wife," he said, shrugging off the minus IOC of cold. "You are alone to collect your thoughts. It is

While this form of escapism may sound a little desperate, given that it involves hours spent in belowfreezing temperatures often catching inedible fish, for tens of thousands of Russians ice-fishing has become an obsession. Visit any fishing shop in the country and there is usually a throng of icefishing addicts swapping stories and tips and stocking up on the extensive equipment needed not only to catch fish but to survive to

Nikolai Ivanchekov, a weekend enthusiast, explained that unlike in North America, where ice-fishermen live in heated wooden huts, with television and cooker, the Russian variety are a much hardier bunch. The most important part of the kit is clothing. You need a thick coat, with hood, a fur hat, felt boots, waders, gloves, a thermos for coffee and a bottle of vodka, not so much that you get drunk, but just enough to keep out the cold," he said. insisting that it was a matter of some pride among Russian ice-fishermen that they only did their real drinking after the fishing was over.

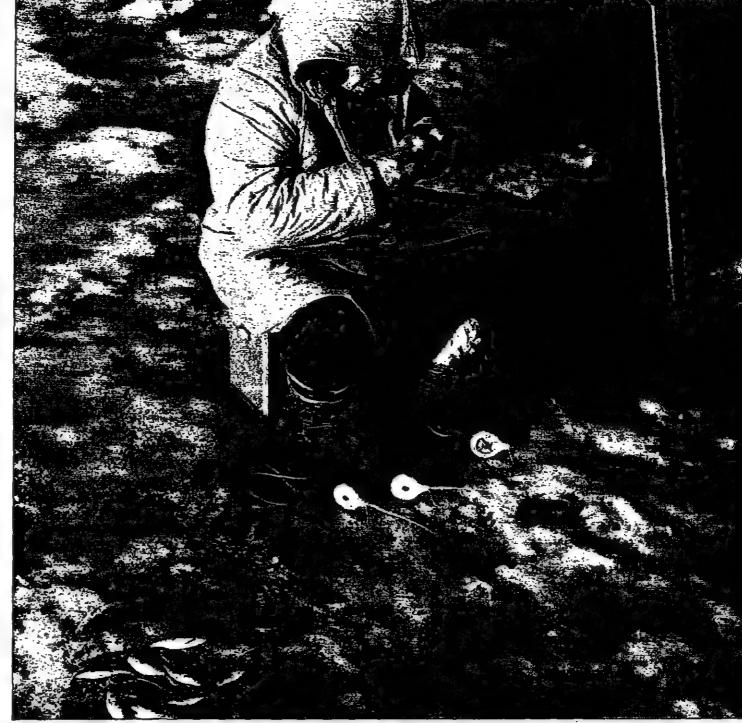
Once you have overcome the problems of dress, the rest is fairly straightforward. Russian ice-fishermen use a tiny fishing rod and reel and bait their hooks with red maggots which they dip gently up and down to attract the fish, normally perch, roach and bream. Another essential tool is a ladle to scoop up the pieces of ice which form in the fishing hole. One distinct and unpleasant characteristic of Russian ice-fishing is the need to keep the maggots alive in sub-zero temperatures by placing the bait box under an armpit for

ven though the majority of Russians, particularly women, do not comprehend how so many of their countrymen can waste the few precious hours of winter sunlight on such a futile pursuit, for enthusiasts it is worth the sacrifice and the

considerable dangers.

Although ice-fishing may look safe, even boring, the fluctuations in temperature and the movement of ice flows claim lives every year in Russia. Fishermen are regularly swept out to sea or fall through the ice and drown. Already this winter six men were dragged off into the Gulf of Finland on an icefloe and are presumed dead. More incidents are likely in the spring when many fishermen miscalculate the speed of the thaw and pay with their lives.

Earlier this year 75 anglers fishing on Lake Ladoga, Europe's largest lake 100 miles north of St



Ice-fishing is a dangerous business and Russian anglers are regularly swept out to sea or fall through the ice and drown

sheet of ice half a mile square. Although the fishermen were stranded for nine hours in temperatures which dropped to minus 17C before they were rescued, the men unperturbed by the experience and showed no signs of wanting to give up. Even as the rescue helicopters hovered above, anglers could be seen below carry-

on with their fishing. Mikhail Kalinsky, one of the rescue workers, said: "Usually they

Petersburg, were swept away on a take enough vodka to keep warm for a few days, so nobody had to go to hospital for exposure. I don't think some of them even realised the trouble they were in. Common sense is not a characteristic one attributes to most ice-fishermen:"

عدد امن الاصل

This foolhardy attitude has caused a backlash among nonfishermen who want to charge anglers for being rescued, particularly those repeat offenders who have to be saved every winter at

"It would be nice if we did not have to waste our time saving these people, but there is not much we can do about it," said a spokesman for the Ministry of Emergency Situations. "None of them could afford to pay the cost of a helicopter rescue. and fining them would probably not be a deterrent. They are rather like icy roads or the flu, just an unpleasant part of the Russian

Raisa Lipotskaya, the wife of an angler who was rescued last month.

said there was no use trying to dissuade Ivan, her 63-year-old husband, from venturing out again.
"He has been in this situation twice before, so I knew who to call when he was late coming home," she told. the St Petersburg Times. There is no way to stop him. He is an incurable ice fisherman." Her only consolation was that he was good at his hobby. "At least he brought back a couple of big ones," she said.

RICHARD BEESTON

years. We have seen eight vers and he's had all sorts of treatments but to no avail. The cysts burst and disappear, but another one starts before long. He's always licking his feet. He was fed on dry food, but we have just changed it to meat and fish plus biscuit meal because a dog breeder said he might be allergic to maize in the all-inone dry food. Can you suggest anything?

A Interdigital cysts are aboften starting in the sweat glands. Your labrador cannot cope with those bacteria which live on every dog's skin, with-out causing trouble. This fail-ure is not likely to be related to an allergy or diet. A vaccine can be made from cultures taken from a cyst and injected to stimulate the dog's defences. Bathing his feet every day with an antiseptic shampoo might reduce the amount of infection. Stay with one vet. He knows what has been tried. A complete cure is unlikely but you can make

JAMES ALLCOCK

Readers thould write to The Times Vet, Weekend, The Times, I Pennington Street, London El 9XV. Advice is offered without

your dog's life better - if not

He may be balding, pop-eyed, big headed and positively freakish, but I still love him. Looks aren't everything when it comes to pets

those ugli fruit in the supermarket and thought "Aah", we may have just the pet for you. Some people - the biggest hearted and most wellbalanced the theory goes just love to cuddle creatures which are pulchritudinally challenged.

Ugliness is only skin deep. Ask anyone who likes to snuggle up to their Shar-Pei. They are the big wrinkly dogs who never grow into their skins, which look like a relief map of the Himalayas. They look terribly worried, probably because they fear the huge owner of their skin may want it back at any moment.

There is a fine line between the ugly and the revolting. Snakes, rats and tarantulas may be revolting, to some of us at any rate, but they're not ugly. Uglies are those who differ from some expected norm for their species.

Top of the uglies' list for Beverley Cuddy, editor of Dogs Today, is the Chinese Crested, a tiny dog which needs very little exercise and a lot of grooming to maintain its coiffure. "It's all My Little Pony on the top," Ms Cuddy

TEL: 0171 680 6861

How much is that ugly in the window?

of Practical Fishkeeping, says:

"The bubble-eye has been bred

to be viewed from above, so

their eyes are set upwards.

And where you'd expect an eye there's a fluid-filled sack."

puffer fish, which inflate them-

selves when stressed. "Then

there's the cow fish, which

looks like a Brussels sprout

with a couple of cocktail sticks

Mr Eade enthuses too about



says. "The rest is hairless, just

the Bedlington terrier, a small-

ish dog which looks like a

lamb. Some might find it

pretty, but that just proves that

ugliness is in the eye of the beholder. After all, I don't

know how anyone can love a bull terrier. Shouldn't dogs be

cuddly? But you - and Bill

Cat owners are touchy

Sykes — may disagree.

She's not too keen either on

warm skin."



The Shar-Pei's coat is too big for him, the dogface puffer swells up when stressed, the Bedlington looks like a lamb and the Cornish Rex is balding

about ugliness. Joan Moore, editor of Cat World, denies

that there is such a thing as an

ugly cat, though some would

nominate the rather bald Dev-

on and Cornish rexes. "What-

ever a cat may look like, it

moves with such grace that no

Ugliness is rarely natural.

Take the celestial bubble-eye.

goldfish, a Japanese creation.

Andrew Eade, technical editor

one could describe it as ugly.

Ms Moore says.



the chameleon. Not because of its warry, leathery skin — that's the nature of the reptile

- but because of its eyes.

They move independently.

it's very strange. He can look



The cow fish is bright yellow with blue spots, which would where he's going and where he's been," he says. be even more worrying in a Keith Evans, a psychologist with an interest in people's relationships with animals, sprout, and can grow up to 16 inches long. The horns protect it from being eaten. As it you'd says: "If someone chooses ever try. Mr Eade's favourite ugly is something, it has a link with an inner reflection of some-

thing they connect to. "Someone might choose, say, a Shar-Pei because the wrinkling is cute. He wants a - it's the teddy bear complex.

Others feel sorry for the dog. They identify with an appearance which is not socially

acceptable and they want to be a rescuer." Mr Evans says. "it's a bit like people. We fall in love for a variety of reasons: it may be for someone's personality in reality or for someone's personality in our perception. People buy animals because they perceive that the outward appearance defines the personality. It is a dangerous assumption.

With fish, which are essentially for display, there may be an elitist element. If I have got something which is different it will make me more interesting. Someone with low selfesteem may buy an animal which says something about

It's worth bearing in mind that many uglies have been bred with a disregard for their comfort. Shar-Pei may suffer skin problems and in-turned eyelids. Many fancy goldfish suffer constipation. It may be kinder to encourage the pro-duction of ugli fruit. Though you might have problems keeping the lead on.

JILL PARKIN



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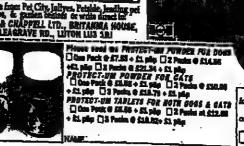
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ADOPT

'If our eyes are the windows to our soul, our windows are other people's eyes into our squalor . . . and at present we are cleanerless'

y husband was once a cleaning lady. Little Fairies, the com-York, supplied him with a white pinny and a dinky pannier of Day-Glo dusters. before dispatching him to swanky addresses on the Upper East Side. His employers ranged from a bohemian Waynetta Slob, whose brownstone apartment was so mired in filth it took him a day to clean it, to a dream woman who kept her place spotless because she never appeared to live in it. Interestingly — in the light of our present predicament — he

charged both clients the same rate. For my part, I once worked as chambermaid in a posh hotel. The high point was cleaning the suite of a now-deceased major-league Hollywood heartthrob. We're talking James Mason, Gregory Peck, Douglas Fairbanks Jr. Sad to report, the glamorous heroes of major motion pictures have exactly the same habits as lesser men: huge deposits of hair in bath, basin, bidet; toilet training leaves a lot to be desired. Personal hygiene can be a great leveller.

Fairies aren't what they used to be LIFE AND SOUL our experience is

our windows are other people's eyes into our squalor — and our house is looking very squalid indeed. The spare room is covered with mountainous ranges of unironed washing; tidemarks are appearing on the baths; dust is gathering on every surface. Adelaide left us two weeks ago, and we are cleanerless. This we hope is a temporary disaster. A new Mintel survey reveals that paid help in the home has become the fastest growing area of consumer spending — the British middle classes spend an amazing £4 billion on keeping our households running smoothly, four times as much as ten years ago — and we have no intention of bucking the national trend:

What this growth in consumer spending means is that cleaners and nannies and gardeners have become increasingly picky about who they work for. Proving

anything to go by, is a devilishly tricky business. The "help", or the "lady that does", has turned into a Sir John Gielgud butler: "Never mind my references, sir. what about yours?" -- which explains why so many of the ads in The Lady sign off with

the desperate legend, Nanny recommends". (Incidentally, at the very apex of the industry, there may be only 90 butlers in the country, but the pay and the conditions seem pretty good -as much as £40,000, plus an executiveprivate medical in-SUFance.)

Some women have enough time on their hands to clean their houses in order to impress their cleaners. This has always struck me as profoundly pointless: a bit like washing your hair before visiting the hairdresser or fore a stomach tuck.

Adelaide took one look at our kitchen (unclean but not monstrously so) on her first visit, and pronounced, with some hauteur: "I can see that there is much to do in this house." On her third visit, she

I said I'd get back to her, but she got back to me, and left a jingly linle message on the answering machine: "Hello, Miss Ginny. I won't be working for you any more. I got another job. Much more money and much less work. Loved your children. Byeece.

The upsurge in demand for domes-tic service is directly related to the increased numbers of doubleincome families. There was a time when certain shrill voices, often in the liberal press, chastised women who worked in the office for employing women who worked in their homes. Why these barbs were only aimed at the wives, not the husbands, I was never able to work out. Same old story, I suppose. But we are all workers now and the old divisions and snobberies no longer apply. 'Our boys' namy employed her own cleaner and, when she gave up her full-time job with us, she cleaned the homes of other nannies. She buys flowers from a pair of women with cut-glass accents and velvet hairbands who deliver door-to-door. But then, all the flower sellers around us come to think of it - could teach Professor Higgins a thing or two about

Next week, a husband-and-wife team are coming to sort us out. I can't wait for the return of order: the neat piles of crisply pressed laundry, the beds with their perfectly plumped pillows and rippleless duvets, the uplifting smell of polish and the sight of glearning basins. In the meantime, our nanny is supervising us while we clean, giving us tips on how to take shortcuts and achieve the same pristine results. It is a revelation. But, however hard we may try, we fail to meet her rigorous requirements.

Unfortunately, my husband no longer cleans like a little fairy, and I never acquired the magic touch,

Someone to watch over me



Matthew, the youngest

Never mind the

gap - a much older sibling

can be your

best friend, says **Ann**

Treneman

is an author and magzine journalist who lives in Rena Her favourite television show is Inspector Morse and she likes paroque music. Michael Alexander is 32 and a landscape ardener in south London. He ikes The Simpsons and Britpop. Matthew is 23 and a nairdresser in Liverbool. He

loves Frasier and Paul Weller. On the face of it these three people have limie in common but, before you agree, look at their faces again. They may have all arrived in different decades - 1954, 1964 and 1973 to be precise - but they were all born to the same mother and father. They are siblings and, despite the conventional wisdom about gap children, they do have something in

common: each other. The subject of birth and order and siblings has attracted an army of researchers. We know that first-borns are driven and competitive. Middle children are constantly seeking an identity while the youngest can be babied to the point where they believe adoration is a normal state of affairs. Only children are more likely to be self-confident, self-possessed and self-

sufficient. But what about gap children? "You won't find much on that because with an age gap of ten years there is none of the normal rivalry you find in siblings separated by two, three or four years. Their lives are not intertwined," says Dr Richard Woolfson, author of Sibling Rivalry. So psychologically it is not seen as very

interesting." Mums and dads planning their famlies find it very interesting indeed though, and most decide to have their children fairly close together. "I want them to be friends, they say. They need to have someone to play with." But there are also pleasures to having a gap sibling and perhaps it is because I have such a close relationship with my youngest sister, Mary, that l did not mind a considerable gap of eight years between my own children. Gap siblings are not

friends early on, however. I was 12 when my sister Mary was born, and her arrival barely registered. Similarly when Michael Alexander artived, his sister Liz was ten and intent on getting on with her own life (as well as with her two other brothers closer to her own age). By the time Matthew came along, she was 19 and ready to fly the nest, "Frankly, his birth did not impact upon my life in any way. Matthew was born in May and I left



Mum and Dad with (from left)

home in August to go to

Michael has only the foggi-est childhood memories of Liz - "I remember her cooking the meals and that was probably my only recollection of her until she left home" - while Matthew remembers a fleeting visitor to their Lancashire home. He says: "I was closest to Michael. I think he moved

youngest, for instance, but in The Alexander family: Michael, John, baby Matthew, Liz and Stuart out when I was 11 and so he was the one I shared the house

> lives but this can be much more subtle with gap children. Frank Sulloway, of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and author of Born to Rebel, a book about birth order traits, says: "You could say that without knowing

with the longest." Birth order has a tremendous effect on our

birth order information is totally irrelevant. The age gap is part of what you meant by birth order." The impact of birth order is at its maximum when there is a gap of three to not the same thing." four years. Anything closer and the siblings are practically equals. Anything farther and they are too removed to react strongly. With gap siblings though, traits can get mixed up. Matthew may be the

many ways he may be like an only child or a first born. Then there is the first born who thinks they are an only child. Technically with a gap of six years or more the first born becomes very close to becoming an only child. They grew up and had much of their personality formed before they ever had a sibling," he says. The US President Bill Clinton is a good example: he was ten before his brother came along. Would history have been dif-

ferent if the gap was smaller? Mr Sulloway is a gap sib-ling himself. "I have a brother who is nine years younger. I can never assume anything

consider myself a functional last born. There was just no rivalry on my part with my younger brother. He was so much younger it was like having a toy in the house. It is

ithout a shared

childhood, gap children often go their own way for vears, if not decades, before discovering each other. I did not get to know my sister Mary properly until I was at least 30 and she was 18. This was also true for the Alexander family. When Michael was 15, his older sister invited him to London for a visit. "This is when we began to reacquaint ourselves," says Michael. They are doing so again now that they both have (non-gap) families of their own. "In the past two or three years we've become a lot closer," he says. Could it be that as adults we find it easier to get along with

non-competitive siblings? 1

can usually predict what my

other sisters are thinking but I

grew up at another time. My mother was different by then too. It is fun to just enjoy the gap and not constantly try to bridge it. Matthew understands what this means. "I look up to Liz because of what she has achieved, even though we don't have that bond from the early years."

It still comes as a surprise to Liz how much younger her brother is. She recently realised that his girlfriend's mother was her age. "I don't think of myself in terms of my age. I feel as much as a sister to Michael and Matthew as I do

to my other brothers." Liz sees much of herself in her youngest brother. "We are peas in a pod. Personality-wise he is incredibly like me and it is almost like watching a rerun of my own career. It is interesting that after 19 years you get two people who are so alike." Yet it is possible that, as a gap child. Matthew has many traits of a first born. Perhaps it is not so strange after all that he and his first born siter have so much in common — finally.

Millennium message works well

Ruth Gledhill enjoys a new act of worship for the year 2000



ence to launch a service which marks the churches' countdown to the millennium, only to find ourselves at a real, live, act of worship. The only disappointment was that there was no sermon. Perhaps the Millennium Group of Chur-ches Together in England, the ecumenical group re-sponsible, thought that a sermon on top of hymns, prayers, the Gloria, Bible readings and the Lord's Prayer would be too much for a bunch of journalists on

a Monday morning. The priest was good, al-most too good in fact. He turned out to be the Rev Tenniel Evans, fresh from playing an 18th-century vicar in the National Theatre's recent production of John O'Keefe's Wild Oats. Mr s, a white-naired che rubic figure, reassured me that he was a genuine as well as an acting priest, a non-stipendiary minister who trained in the Oxford diocese. He is one of an increasing number of nonstipendiary clergy who seek ordination in later life, going on quietly to act out their Christian mission in their work or their retire-

ment. "In these last days you have spoken to us by your Son; and we who have heard his voice, have heard you," went the responsorial prayer before the reading from Isaiah 65. "See, I am creating new heavens and a new Earth! The past will no more be remembered nor

will it ever come to mind.' We were at Inter-Church House, the headquarters of Churches Together near Waterloo in southeast London, for the launch of a service for use on the Sunday after Easter this year. which is exactly 1,000 days before January I, 2000. Hundreds of churches of all denominations have pledged to use it, and more

are expected to follow suit. It has arisen out of concern that the Government. through the Millennium Commission, is investing millions in marking the millennium through a range of projects, and that the primary reason for it that it is the anniversary of the birth of Christ - is in danger of being lost.

Our epistle was from I John I. "Here is the message we have heard from him and pass on to you: God is light, and in him there is no darkness at all. If we claim to be sharing in his life while we go on living in darkness, our words and our lives are a lie," we heard. "If we claim to be sinless, we are self-deceived and the truth is not in us." My secular journalist's soul wriggled uncomfortably and we moved on to the most effective part, the intercessions. With a beautiful Taize chant, Wait for the Lord, as the response, and the surrounding silence in the chapel complete. Mr Evans led us in the prayer. we jive.in a world snape by words and images, where often the whisper of mercy is drowned by the noise of contempt," he said. "We pray for artists and writers, whose words and pictures linger in our minds, that they may show the truth that sets us free."

I read from the service sheet that the offering was next. "We dare not offer worship that has cost us nothing. With these gifts we bring to you all that we are and all that you have made us," it said. I reached for a pound coin, but evidently it had been decided that, like a sermon, this would be too much for journalists and we skipped to the Lord's Prayer and a final hymn.

The strange thing was that, despite initial scepticism, it seemed to work. I came away thinking there might be something Christian about the millennium

• 1000 Days to the Millennium — A Service of Preparation, £3 inc p8p, from Church House Bookshop, Great Smith Street, London SWIP 3BN 10171-340 02761.

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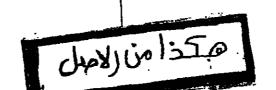
*A five-star guide * PRIEST: The Rev Tenniel Evans

SERMON: None, although organisers afterwards answered our theological queries about their plans for the millennium. ARCHITECTURE: Modern with shocking cross. ★★★

MUSIC: A group led us in a traditional hymn and the evocative Nigerian chant Come, Holy Spirit, come. ** LITURGY: Celebrates the Incarnation, the forgiveness of debts and penitence for the failings of the last 1,000 years. ★★★★ SPIRITUAL HIGH: Full of hope and promise. *** AFTER-SERVICE CARE: Sandwich feast. ***



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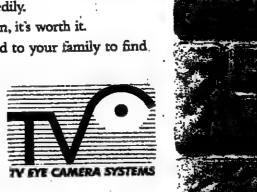
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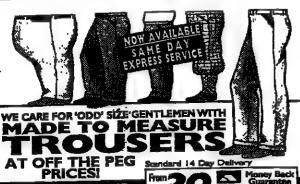
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IRRITABLE BOWEL SYNDROME? Helpful Advice From **Dr Vernon Coleman**

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 How to look after your digestive system

* Relief from wind * Tips on how to cope with stress * Foods that can make things worse

Having suffered from IBS for several years I know what a devastating effect it can have on your life and I do hope my book will be able to help you. You can try my advice without risk - if you don't find the book helpful then simply return it to me within 28 days of receipt for a full refund. As a bonus we will also send you a valuable FREE book worth £9.95 when you order. The contents of your free book include: "Should you get a second opinion?", "How to get the best out of your doctor", "How to cope in an emergency", "How to live to be 100", "Improve your life by changing your diet", "How to protect yourself against viruses" and much, much more! To order a copy of my book Relief from IBS send a cheque or postal order (payable to Publishing House) for £9.95 to IBS Book Offer, Sales Office TI 35, Publishing House, Trinity Place, Barnstable, Devon EX32 9HJ. Post is FREE! For credit card sales please ring (01271) 328892. Your book will be sent to you within 28 days. Reading this book could help solve your IBS problem for good - and remember, you have nothing to lose but your symptoms. Your free book is yours to keep whatever you

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■ Whatever the exact mechanism, Transcutaneous Electrical Nerve Stimulation is a powerful tool for relieving pain" Crosbie J. McConnel J., Bds

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long-term with no risk of serious adverse effects. Johnson M.I., Ashton C.H., Thompson J.W., (1992) Journal of the Royal Society of Medicine Vol. 85, 267-268. Electrical stimulation is a

clinically established method of Hospital, Liverpool Professor Ashton of

Newcastle University ran tests comparing the results of using TeNS and comparing it with Aspinn. Her work showed that TeNS had a more significant effect on the nerves being

In another study Professor Ashton found that TeNS was effective in controlling cold induced pain. Patients placed their arm in buckets of ice after using TeNS - the study found they could tolerate more pain after using TeNS.

A study at the University of Miami found that TeNS in addition to being useful in short term, had a long term benefit for pain sufferers. This group also found improved function and quality of life as well as reduced use of medicines.

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PAIN RELIEF GUIDE



Is this the drip free solution to a pain free life that we've all been waiting for?.... If so popping pills could become

Apparently, one type of fibre carries the 'hunt' or pain message to the brain, while the other, thicker type is capable of acting in a contradictory way by blocking out (or erecting a gate to) the 'hunt' signal, thereby preventing its transmission to the Toung or old, rich or poor, the one thing we can rely on is that, sooner or later, pain will pay an unwelcome visit to all our lives. Moreover, neither youth, nor health, nor vigour can offer any guarantee of immunity, for it can -

In lact, acupuncture and pain-killers both work on this 'gate' theory to alleviate pain. As does Transcutaneous Electrical Nerva Stimulation (IeNS), which is now being employed with increasing success in NHS Hospitals and Clinics throughout the UK Utilising precisely the same effective principle, researchers found that IeNS produces an intense stimulation which activates an area of the brain which, in turn, inhibits the pathways that transmit pain signals. Although it is not a cure, TeNS is now accepted by the medical profession as being of aignificant benefit to many in controlling any kind of physical pain. While TeNS has a remarkably wide range of applications - it has proven to be successful in alleviating pain associated with a variety of aliments - it seems to work better when the area of pain is localised rather than general. One of the latest methods of controlling pain that seems to bring considerable relief to many relies on the 'gate theory' first propounded in the 1930s by British neuroanatomist. Patrick Wall and Canadian psychophysiologist Ronald Melzack. After spending ten years researching the subject at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, USA, Wall and Melzack concluded that our recognition of the sensation of pain involves two types of nerve fibre, each of which sends conflicting messages to the

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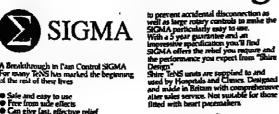
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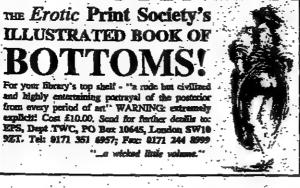
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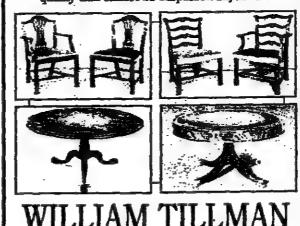
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(017)-437 3677). Reading: The Travel Bookshop (0171-229 5260) commends South India (Cadogan Books, £14.99, ISBN 1860 11070 3), and Water by Ashokamitran, (Heinemann, £4.99, ISBN

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The author flew to Delhi with Air India on a return flight from

Time to hunt around snooty Ooty



Transfixed for ever in the Indian sunshine, members of the Ootacamund Hunt pose for the camera. Set high in the Nilgiri Hills, Ootacamund offered Raj officers an escape from the summer heat of Madras

ridge and poached eggs).

Mr Smith drops a
bombshell. "I am airaid," he says, smiling gravely, "there is no one darning socks in Ooty at the moment." He waggles his head apologetically from side to side, straightens the Meal Order Forms ("Adequate Notice Essential") and wraps himself in his thick woollen shawl. It is a moment of silent embarrassment. Ooty (Oota-camund) had seemed just the right old-fashioned imperial

place for darning.
High in the Nilgiri Hills of Tamil Nadu, the Queen of British Hill Stations once offered an escape for officers and administrators sweltering through the summer heat of Madras. It had a unique appeal for the British, with its rolling downs and its gentle streams. Generations of visi-tors have made the 7,000ft climb through dazzling green paddy fields, ten estates and coconut plantations. They have settled back on trim verandas, sipped their gins and talked about snooty Octy. "A curious place is Ooty," noted Edward Lear on an 1874 after the Brits had first arri-

sketching tour, half a century ved. "Houses stuck all about the hills and trees everywhere but so English as to be, I think, utterly undrawable." He drew it, all the same, after a fortifying breakfast of beefsteak and claret. The Englishness is still there

at Regency Villa, the hotel run by Mr Smith with his fastidi-ous charm and his thick woollen shawl. His grandparents came over from Eng-land to set up a chain of department stores in Madras and, after a lifetime in the hotel business (he discreetly mentions meeting the Queen, Vivien Leigh and Clint Eastwood), he has ended up

He maintains the Regency, high on a hill beyond West Down Bungalow, Blackwood Cottage and the Graduate Tiffin Room, as a perfect period place. Once a hunting lodge for maharajas' guests, pois of geraniums and nasturtiums cluster round the doors, fuchsias droop across the win-dows and, inside, the walls are graced by mildewed maharaas, 1920s society beauties photographed by the Sunheam Studio, and many pictures of the Ooty Hunt. They ride out of one frame and into another - Mr Smail and Lieutenant-Colonel Dennistown with their canes and their shooting

If you look carefully, Ootacamund still has fading relics of our imperial rule, says Stephen McClarence

sticks and their snifters and with motheaten jackals heads their hounds, blinking in the and lists of winners of the bright dawn light for another

As we arrive, Ramu, the houseboy, unlocks bedroom after bedroom, each larger than the last and packed with cane chairs, oil-lamos, one-bar radiators, hot water bottles in white linen covers, musty mortiballed wardrobes and overall shabby gentility. We settle for a vast bay windowed room with candlewick bedspreads, a tassled 1930s standard lamp and a view down the drive framed by grazing cows and the occasional passing cyclist. It could be Hert-fordshire, 1932.

As the evening draws in, the 40-watt bulbs flicker and fade and we light candles and settle down to tinner

(curried eggs) with the edges of the room in darkness. During coffee, there is an urgent tapping on the eyed man bursts in. "I am Gopal the cook, sir," he announces, his curry stained apron tight around his middle

ment, flashes a manic smile and backs out. We occasionally see him following the cars up the hill to watch the sunset. The Regency is a precious link with old Ooty. The town is changing. True, the dogs still bank on the tea terraces and the mountains still shimmer a misty blue and the moon is sky. The pine and the eucalyptus still acent the air and the cowbells clang up the valley, but the town has degenerated

into noisy bazaars and choking traffic furnes.

The elderly expats who stayed on after independence have gone. The genteel bridge parties are no more. Spencers shop, famed for its Wensley-dale cheese, is now a computer showroom. Even the town's name has been changed to Udhagamandalam, a mouth-

ful which most ignore. But they still have the flower show and the dog show, and the Oory Club still survives up its long and intimidating drive. The walls are covered

and lists of winners of the Ladies' Point-to-Point. Snooker was reputedly invented here a century ago and the club still dings to the standards of those golden days. "Casual dress is perfectly acceptable", allows a notice about the four-course luncheons. "But coat and tie is

to be preferred." The entrance is guarded by a doorman in a green baize uniform that looks recently recycled from one of the snooker tables. He is unyielding. No. sir, non-members are not allowed inside without a letter of introduction. No, sir, the secretary is away for a month. I'm sorry, sir, the president's telephone is out of order. Do many members use the club at

weekends? "Com-Mildewed Toing and froing." We console ourselves with the Nil-giri Library. a photos of grand bit of Victorimaharajas an Gothic that grace the home in any British provincial town. The Reading hotel's Room has solid oak walls lecterns for perusing The Times of

India and The and his head wrapped in a Hindu. Members sit in low scarf. He hovers for a mo-cotton-covered armchairs under stags' heads and browse through old copies of the National Geographic magazine. The list of requested additions-to-stock includes "the latest books of Biggles". Mr Yesudass, the attendant,

unlocks an upstairs door and gives it a sharp kick to reveal a room lined with Blackwoods Magazines and Punch going back to 1827. Over the fireplace is a striking ensemble: a bison's head, Queen Victoria (large portrait), the Duke of Edinburgh (small photograph) and an antisonet head graph) and an antelope's head. Downstairs, Daphne, one of the assistants, complains about the weather. It has only just stopped raining after five months, she says. A little Britishness lives on, after all.

Just up the road, in the still recognisably colonial part of Ooty, is Higginbotham's bookshop, stacked with Culpepers Complete Herbal and The Savoy Operas - and First Steps in Tamil, published for missionaries in 1922 and still regularly reprinted. It points

word for "shrimp" and "hump-backed woman" and offers translations of such useful observations as "He talks thickly, as one who has a cold". The water in the rice pots boils with a gurgling sound" and, philosophically, "All men sleep in the night". Its greatest glory, though, is a series of conversational

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Second person: "It is not a true elephant. It is a monolithsculpture." First person: "My eyes de-

ceived me. The definess of the hands of the sculptors is something marvellous."

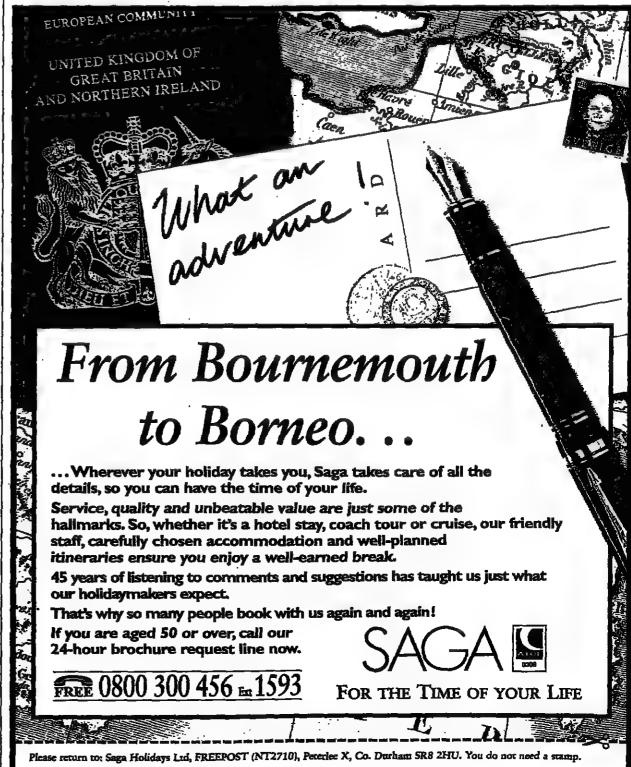
For the remainder of the Raj try St Stephen's Church, looming with its pale yellow distem-per above the town centre, a passable imitation of a 14thcentury English parish church. It is full of monuments to soldiers who died of jungle fever, to Captain Preston who drowned while out with the Ooty Hounds, and to Bishop Dealtry, "a labourer and overseer in that portion of the Lord's vineyard planted in India". Golden angels cascade from a window and a sweeper sleeps on a rattan bench.

After a week of wandering

round Ooty, we took the Blue Mountain Railway down to Cooneor, a smaller hill station. The railway is probably Ony's biggest tourist draw these days, with its boxy blue and cream carriages edging their way up and down gradients of alarming steepness. We trundle through cuttings and tunnels, along sheer cliffs, with the treetops just dots below, past old British bunga-lows with saris drying on the

ventually we reach Coonoor, where Mr Dorci is waiting with his taxi. "Tourists go to Ooty, sir," he says. "But the sightseeing place is Coonoor." Sadly, dense fog has come down and there are no sights to be seen. Mr Dorci is not discouraged. "Beautiful view of opposite hill," he announces, swerving round in his seat. "When no mist." We stop at Dolphin's Nose,

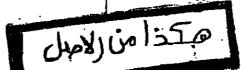
viewpoint where Indian tourists are photographing each other in front of the fog. "Magnificent waterfall," says Mr Dorri. "See, sir." He pulls half a dozen postcards from his pocket. These are the views. Beautiful views. When



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Far East)

United Kingdom

Mediterranean: Despite the popularity of Cyprus there are plenty of hideaways if you know where to look . . .

Aphrodite's palm-fringed benefits

month teaching appointment in Cyprus, and stayed for four years. It was hard to leave an island with perfect weather and beaches, hospitable people and a low cost of

living.
After the 1974 Turkish invasion, the Greek Cypriots were left with over half an island, but the country-side had a beauty and fecundity worthy of their goddess Aphrodite

hours to drive from Cape Greko in the east to Polis in the west; with the much improved roads today, you can do it in three. Along the way there are always new discoveries precariouslyperched monasteries, Byzantine churches, Roman villas and Crusader castles, as well as Aphrodite's legacy
— her sanctuary and baths and sublimely beautiful birthplace Petra tou

In spring and autumn I went hiking in the mountains and in the winter months fitted in some skifrom April until October, my friends and I would point our motorbikes southeast and camp in a scrub forest that flanked a sandy

known as the island of Aphrodite but equally important to us was Bacchus's legacy — a single taverna on an empty beach where you could eat grilled red mullet and Greek olives, and drink

brandy sours. In those days, Ayia Napa, farming village with one hotel. Now it is the island's largest resort, with 7,060 beds for tourists. Things do change and unfortunately the concrete slick remorselessly keeps creeping along the littoral. There are, however, plenty of hideaways look. Cyprus still has some of Europe's best beaches and most dramatic landscape, as well as sompolent mountain villages and wellpreserved ancient sites. I may not like all the changes of the past decade but there that I do love to draw me back again and again.



Orthodox priests shop in Paphos market. Paphos, said to be the birthplace of Aphrodite, is a favourite with tourists and therefore best avoided during school summer holidays when the beaches are crowded

around Ayia Napa but you space in the summer. Makronissos has good beaches and Ayia Trias at Pernera.

fanning either side of the promontory and is slightly There is fabulous rock diving ess busy than those closer to Greko town. Smaller, usually quiet Anargyroi). Once you leave east coast, the sand is beaches, can be found at Ayia coarser and is often with pebbles.

South coast: Lamaca has become a scruffy, downmarket resort popular with off-duty British soldiers from the Dhekelia base. The beach is mostly industrial sand and gets overcrowded in summer. The larger and equally busy resort of Limassol has mostly small, artificial hotel beaches that have been grappling with effluent dumped offshore by four local wineries. It is. however, a working town and has a nightlife to equal Ayia Napa's, as well as a couple of

The best beaches are west of the Roman remains at Kourion. In Kourion itself, the beach is long and empty, apart from a couple of tavernas. My favourites are further west at Avdimou and Pissouri. The former is quiet, has two good tavernas (Kyrenia has the edge) and a glorious setting with sandstone cliffs on either side, and vineyards and wheat

fields behind. West coast: Between Latsi and Ayios Georgios, the undeveloped northwest is a series of serried bays flanked by gorse, carob and olive trees and is accessible only to mountain bikes and 4x4 vehicles. The further north you bead towards the Akamas peninsula (soon to be designated the island's only national park) the more Arcadian it gets: a wilderness bevond the dreams of those staying some 20 miles south in teeming Paphos.

There is one taverna just before Lara (where turtles hatch their eggs on the finest beach outside Ayia Napa); otherwise you should take food and drink with you. Coral Bay is the best sandy beach near Paphos (seven miles north) but it gets very crowded. In town, beaches tend to be like Limassol's: short, man-made and lassoed

Northwest: To the east, Latsi has already been developed and will soon get its first 500bed, five-star hotel, with two more to follow. Trakas beach, a couple of miles before Aphrodite's Baths has one taverna and is usually quiet.

From Aphrodite's Baths good taverna with wonderful difftop setting), the Akamas coastline rises and plummets will only share with an occatrack is very narrow in places with sheer drops).

The deeper you get into the Troodos, the more sublime it gets. Pedhoulas, Prodhromos hill stations, but try to go beyond these to time-war villages like Mylikouri, which is inhabited by ancients (the young move to the resorts and towns for work) in a verdant gorge with a nearby Crusader bridge and some of the finest countryside in the Mediterranean. From here you can drive a dirt road down through the Cedar Valley (where you might catch sight of a mouflon) to the west coast. On the Nicosia side, the old village of Kakopetria, slowly being restored, is most interesting.

FOOD and DRINK

Try grilled halloumi (goat's cheese), lountsa (cured ham) and the humble but tasty horiatiki (village salad) for starters. Fish rarely disap-

the Mill in Kakopetria. Look no further than locally raised trout in gartic butter (about £8). Overlooks the valley and houses in the old village.

South: Kastro's at Pissouri beach is my favourite beach taverna. Mum cooks while the sons Xenos and Aristos serve and befriend. Dad watches telly and thumbs his worry beads. The quintessential Cypriot taverna experience and

West: St George's Seafood Restaurant at Ayios Georgios offers good Cypriot fare, if unusually cool service. But the cliffside setting is sublime. overlooking the small harbour. In the evening try Finikas in Drousseia - an intimate, rustic family experience and good food. It's best to choose whatever is special that day.

ditioning) from £23 per day (Evagoros pool from £60 per day (ring 00 357 5 222526; ask for Xenios). Both provide free pick-ups from Paphos airport. Ayia Napa area. I would choose the family-friendly (buggy ramps, children's tea

and so on) four-star Dome Hotel at Makronissos (00 357 3 721006), where rooms cost from about £32.50 per person. with breakfast (children sharing parents' rooms pay half). West coast: Yeronisos (00 357 6 621078) is a simple unpackaged budget hotel in the hamlet of Ayios Georgios. which has a small fishing harbour serving as a breakwater to a sliver of beach nestling beneath honeycomb cliffs at the start of the dirt road north. The hotel is small, spotless and cheap at about



On the Troodos trail

£20 for two, with breakfast (air conditioning and tea-making in rooms), about £26 for family of four.

Mountains. If you want to stop over, the Mount View (00 357 2 942346) in Milikouri has modest, clean and cheap selfcatering units overlooking a verdant valley. About £6.75 per person a night.

WHEN TO GO

Sunny all year round. Last year I was swimming in the sea on November & Rain is a great event if it falls between June and October. Spring and autumn are best. Avoid school summer holidays when it is crowded and very hot.

IN A NUTSHELL

The best restaurant: Maryland Mill at Kakopetria. Walk: west of the Baths of Aphrodite or along the valley beneath the Mount View apartments at Milikouri. Monastery: Chrysorriogia-tissa is preferable to the touristy Kykko, where Arch-bishop Makarios is buried. Good view from the roof along the entire west coast.

options: two-bedroom apartments (with washing machines, television, air concosts £30 with lunch. Or hire a four-wheel drive and take in the above and Lara before tery and inland villages such as Drousseia.

Beach: Lara in the west Avdimou in the south and Makronissos in the east.

PACKAGES

One week B&B at Columbia Pissouri, with flights and car hire, from £582 per person with Cyprus specialist Sunvil (0181-568 4499). A week's B&B at the Dome in Makronissos costs from £359 per person, including flights with Golden Sun (0171-485 9555).

MORE THAN A BEACH Cyprus has a wide selection of

off-beach options: Agrotourism: Revitalising old villages. A week's villagebased self-catering at Droussela through Sunvil costs from £511 per person based on two sharing and including flights and car hire. Walking. A nine-day Troodos Villages walk with Explore (01252 319448) costs from E540 including flights, accommoda-

Wine tours: Eleven days full board staying at village homes costs from £1,095 with flights, guided walks and tastings. Outdoor leisure: Cycling, archaeology, fishing, birdwatching, hiking and scuba diving holidays from Cyprair (017) 388 7515). One week's four-star half-board in Paphos, five days cycling, flights and transfers from £620 per person. Goff: Argo Holidays (0171-33) 7070). One week's half-board

in the Paphos hotel £309 including flights. Golf club fees £138 for five days. FLIGHT ONLY

flies from Heathrow, Gatwick, Manchester, Birmingham. and from May from Stansted. to Lamaca and Paphos. Return Apex flights from £240. plus £20 tax. CAR HIRE

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INFORMATION

Cyprus Tourist Office (0171-

READING

Bitter Lemons, by Lawrence Durrell (Faber, £8.99, ISBN 0 571 06186 9). Journey into Cyprus, by Colin Thubron (Penguin, E6.99, ISBN 0 140 12406 3). Cyprus, by Marc Dubin (Rough Guides, £9.99, ISBN 1858 28182 2).

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westwards, passing bays you sional goat or shipwreck.
Take water and food whether you are walking or in a 4x4 (in the latter case, ensure the tank is full and be warned, the

BEST SITES

points, and during your stay you should try kleftico (lamb About 14km west of Limassol roasted in a clay oven), stifado is the 13th-century Kolossi (beef stew), afelia (diced pork Castle: five idlometres further in coriander and wine), kewest, the Greco-Roman ruins babs in pitta and, of course, at Kourion; 14 kilometres east the meze (endless small, hot and cold dishes). My family of four spends between £14 and £25 for taverna meals, with drinks (fish and meze are mosaics). more expensive). In tavernas, BEST HOTELS palatable bottled Cypriot wines cost about £4 and

sparkling Bellapais (best drunk ice-cold at lunch) and the more expensive red Domain d'Ahera (about £6.50). Try these eating places off the beaten track (booking not

carafe hooch about £2.25. My

favourites are the lightly

East: Vangelis on the outskirts of Paralimni. A fine exponent of the modern concrete school of architecture with Gestapo lighting but frequented by locals rather than tourists and occasionally serving sweet-breads, quail, rabbit or pigeon. For lunch (or simply sundowners when the fishing fleet is resplendent in the late sun) try the Dometrion taverna, where the Potamos Xylaphagou river finally reaches the sea.

of Paphos, the sanctuary of Aphrodite (12th-century BC). beside Paphos harbour the House of Dionysos (Roman This is a selection determined by setting and value for money rather than number of stars. Pissouri. Columbia Pissouri

Beach Hotel (00 357 5 221201). Three stars (deserving four) and the only hotel on the beach. Idyllic setting with terracotta cliffs at either end of the beach. The sea is overlooked by an attractive pool terrace flanked by family. suites. Drive three kilometres through vineyards back to the main road and you are 15 minutes from Kourion and the temple and birthplace of Aphrodite and within 30 minutes of Limassol, Paphos and the Troodos foothills. Doubles cost from about £74, family suites from around £155 per night with breakfast. Pristine.

Tour: Exalt's Avgas Gorge Trek (06 243803). You need to

... while Corfu is more inviting now the crowds have gone, but take care when choosing a resort in Rhodes



Oozing with. charm and ouzo

tourist industry moved into the Mediterranean, was an early beachhead. After 25 years in the brochures, it is now often passed over by travellers look-ing for novelty and new destinations. This year, operators have drastically cut capacity to avoid last-minute discount wars, while sending the costconscious to Turkey-instead,

and Corfu is much quieter. Most of the attractions that made Corfu irresistible to the pioneers still hold good. It is still the greenest of the islands, shrouded in olive groves and fir trees, with tiny fishing villages in sheltered coves on the east coast and sandy beaches on the west.

The reason Corfu can keep its appeal is that the island is more than one destination. Each area attracts a different type of visitor, and through small, private developments each town - and each beach

- has a distinctive character: In the northeast, exclusive resorts huddle around coastal villages where the accommodation is in hoxury villas and a boat is more useful than a car for getting to the shops or to deserted beaches. Down south is rave country, where daugh ters have more fun than their parents realise, and on the alarmingly in the sun: ideal for sunsoaking. Inland, unspoilt villages still shelter among the mountains, home to widows dressed in black, the occasional donkey and shady groves of olives.

There is something for everyone in Corfu, but it is important when booking accommodation, to choose the right area. It might look small on the map but from the perspective of one of the seemingly endless hairpin bends it is suddenly clear that even with a rented car Corfu is a big island, and few visitors will get around all of it. Where you stay makes all the difference.

Clubbers head for Kavos at the southern tip of the island, where more than 80 bars keep some visitors up so late they fly home paler than they arrived. In years gone by, prone bodies snoring their way to their next hangover used to make it tricky driving through Kavos, even at midday, but reduced tourism has polished yobbishness off the youth culture.

Although some visitors never make it to the beaches, they aren't bad and anyone who can walk will find peaceful stretches of sand and the odd ruined monastery to the west.

Either side of the airport, the east coast is intensively developed. Benitses, once home to the traditional British package, is now largely taken over by eastern Europeans. To the north is Dassia, slightly more civilised, and the next bay up is Ipsos, another nightbird centre, edging a long narrow stretch of peoble beach. Having fun here is less of a panic than down south in Kavos.

Corfu's sandy beaches are all on the west coast, a spectacular range of wooded mountains dropping sharply to the sea. One of the best is Agios Gordis, where the wide band of sand hosts plenty of tic development, with small,

rooming houses scattered up the steep road, and usually, for some reason, painted pink. Further north, Glifada is a Corflot favourite with plenty of beach but overlooked by a set of fashionable bars that are just big enough to miss the personal touch.

A short distance up this coest is my favourite sandy beach on the island, Mentiotissa, great for those who want to get away from it all. Isolated by a precipitous access track, this beach is broken up by vertical shafts of rock that keep the monastery at one end and the nudists at the other. There are no facilities here but you can camp nearby. Just north again is Ermones, the only beach I've come across with a lift down to the water: the coast is so steep it needs it.

The next resort north is Paleokastritsa, so beautiful it has become a postcard classic. Sheltering cliffs surround two startling-blue inlets, beaches framed by sheer tree-clad lopes. Too beautiful for the British, most of the guest rooms are now filled by sunseekers from richer parts of Europe: a consolation is that now there is more development than the beaches can



Corfu town is an atmospheric blend of narrow alleys and yellow stonework sandwiched between two massive forts | from 1912 to 1943, is packed

sphere is magical.

Accommodation in this part

of the island is strictly villa many private, others rentable.

This part of the island is very much smart UK territory.

There's a small pebble beach

to one side of the harbour, but

it's best to rent a boat - or walk - to nearby Kerasia beach with a small taverna, or

one of the many deserted coves

on the water's edge, most visitors never find time to

explore inland. In years gone

by, Corfiots lived in the moun-

too far for a casual pillage.

ains, reasoning that pirates would never bother to climb

Now the Med's a more

lawful place (except, if you believe the gossip, for occa-sional furtive visitors from

Albania), the inland villages

are quiet retreats of pastel

houses and whitewashed

churches amid olive groves and cypress trees. The crops

are oranges, lemons and figs,

and nightlife is lacemaking. In these atmospheric crumbling

hamlets the way of life is

largely unchanged from times

time. Various empires have

ruled the island in its

chequered history - even

orfu town is more

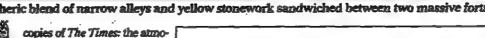
sophisticated, and

well worth a few

days of anyone's

With the many attractions

along this part of the coast.





Lindos, a carnatural harbour. Snow white houses and holiday flats are available in the landmark village itself, but there are some attractive hotels nearby. Narrow winding lanes with pebble mosaic pavements lead up to the Athena Lindia temple and spectacular views sturdy footwear or a donkey taxi is a must). The ancient churches, courtyards, and women selling lace en route to the citadel, lend great charm. Rhodes City is less beautiful,

but it too boasts a history stretching back to the crusades. A home to legions of stray cats, it is split between the old and new town, where the Occident and Orient meet. Within the impressive walls of the Old Town are some interesting museums and the mag-nificent Palace of the Grand Masters, with medieval tur-rets and towers.

The New Town is better known for its beaches, bars, and discos. The Mandraki Harbour, styled by the Italians, whose occupation lasted

to heaven with cruise boats set for lindos. Two thick columns, topped with a stag and a doe, stand on either side of the

placed by hordes of tourists on this, the largest of the Dodeca-nese Islands. An alluring mixture of sun. sea. and beautiful landscapes threatens a new epither, the Majorca of the Aegean". But Majorca does not have the Acropolis of Lindos or the

Colossus of Rhodes, So where should you stay? Hotels in Rhodes New Town are ideal for body bronzers. muscle flexers and aspiring Greek dancers. For those who think applying suntan lotion is dangerously strenuous, one of probably a better choice. Sun and fun seekers head for Faliraki, the St Tropez of the island, where lo-

tion may need to be applied all over the only nudist beach is here and the main hotels are firmly in the hands of the operators.

harbour entrance, where the Colossus of Rhodes once stood, according to one theory. A more recent one argues that this Wonder of the Ancient World, which took 12 years to build and was destroyed in an earthquake, stood near the Palace of the Grand Masters. And should your bathroom at home be short of sponges, head for the harbour. Stall after stall sells them.

We stayed in the north of the island, at the town of lalysos. Famous for the Melterni breeze, which is like a natural air conditioner in the summer months, it was the best place to be in the soaring temperatures; Rhodes beats Corfu and Cyprus for sunshine, and even in October tem-

peratures **Breezes** reach 86F. Almost a mile make the track the Terinikos Apartments are banorth the sic and charming The medium-sized place to be pool, like the gar-

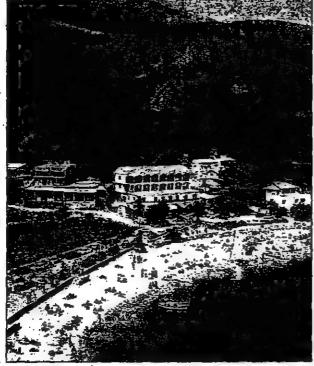
dens, is immacufree preservation lately kept and area, drapes itself around a essential for an instant cooldown, although the pebbly beach is only 600 metres

> The local bars and tavernas in lalysos serve much the same food as anything we ate elsewhere on the island. We opened almost every meal with mezedes, feasting on taramosalata, melitsanosalata (aubergine salad), and tsatsiki, always served with hot pitta bread.

We took buses and taxis: both were relatively cheap. On our way to Lindos, on board a sweltering bus without airconditioning, the sight of a motorbike overtaking made me wonder that we had made the wrong choice. But however you get there, gazing at the azure sea from high on the coast is the place to be.

MORAG PRESTON

■ The author was a guest o Monarch Airlines (01582 400000) and Cosmosair (0181-464 3444). Seven nights for two adults at the Terinikos Apartments. from May I to 7. flying from Gatwick, costs



Paleokastritsa beach has become a postcard classic

handle: add daytrippers and Paleokastritsa's small strips of sand disappear under bodies. Corfu's main family resorts tend to be on the northern coast, where broad expanses of sand shelve gently into sunwarmed seas, and families concentrate in resorts such as Sidhari, Rhodos, Acharavi and round as far as Kassiopi. The one drawback can come from the northwest the prevailing Maestros wind that blows across the island for most of the summer. To keep sand out of your sandwiches

pick a beach that is sheltered. The smart part of the island for all generations is the northeast tip, between Kassiopi and Barbati. The coast here has pebbly sheltered coves and picturesque fishing villages backed by steep slopes thick with olive trees. Protected from the Maestros by Corfu's highest mountain, Pankrator, they look out (rather nervously) towards Albania, just a couple of miles

FACT FILE

Meon Villas (01730 230370) kas a number of huxury villas and apartments on Corfu. For example, a seven E399 (September to October), based on four sharing, or at the Villa Sotiris £459, based on six pack (food and wise) and flights

across the sea. Nissaki, Kalami and Kouloura are prime destinations, but my

them about this place," said a dentist on his 17th holiday here as he tried to bribe me by insisting that a bottle of wine went on his bill. As he was a regular and 1 was not, the restaurateur marked it up to me at the end of the evening so I don't feel bound to silence, but I can understand why he wanted to keep it quiet. San Stefano's perfectly-round harbour, bobbing with yachts. fishing boats and rentable dinghies, is lined with restaurants serving some of the best seafood on the island, a small delicatessen, and a couple of postcard shops selling day-old

sharing. Includes car hire.

personal favourite is San Stefano (not to be confused with the other San Stefano across the island in the northwest). "For God's sake don't tell

night holiday in the San Stefano area will cost from

Russia had it for a couple of days — and the elegant blend of Venetian, French and Greek architecture gives the capital an edectic charm. The atmospheric city centre of narrow alleys and sundrenched yellow stonework is sandwiched between two massive forts built to protect the inhabitants from pirates but now eiderly ladies sit making lace in the back of shops dripping with table-cloths, and boutiques stock imaginative silver and gold jewellery. Woollens, leathers and the inevitable T-shirts are also on offer, but for a memory that might fade sooner many

Liston buildings. High season in Corfu is late July and August, which can be very hot. The best time to visit is May and June for flowers or, for a warmer sea, Septemhibernates: restaurants close and the locals concentrate on

visitors are happy to sip at an

outs in the arcades of the

JACK BARKER The author was a guest of Meon



Italy conjures up many varied imag surely few could be stronger than that of the Lakes of Lombardy and Piedmont. The early mist rising off the water, creating a fragile beauty of flower-filled gardens reflected in the lakes. Villages and towns of brightly painted yellow and pink houses rise from the shoreline up narrow, steep lanes to be lost in the hills and mountains that create such a dramatic backdrop.

Our week long stay in the charming take-side village of Moltrasio will be at the delightful four star Grand Hotel Imperial, Situated on the shores of Lake Como, this elegant ninety room hotel offers a high standard of air

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elegant public areas. The gardens are lovely affording the choice of relaxing on a terrace by the gardens or by the heated swimming pool which is next to the lake shore.

The bedrooms are most comfortable. beautifully appointed and have either lake or land view. In addition to the hotel's main dining room there is also an a la carte surant and a credit is available if you choose to dine there. Other facilities include

a tennis court, squash and a gymnasium. The temptation when planning a visit to such a beautiful, culturally and botanically

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as many villas, gardens and scenic wonders

However, experience has shown that the ideal

tranquil place and then spend the next seven

thereby missing the very spirit of the lakes. With this in mind, our itinerary has been

planned to allow some free time to enjoy the

excellent facilities of the hotel, stroll around

Moltrasio or take a launch from the hotel's

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jetty to nearby villages or Como.

as is possible in the course of a week.

itinerary allows for a balance of activity

interspersed with free time. After all it is senseless to travel to such a wonderfully

days chasing a crammed schedule and

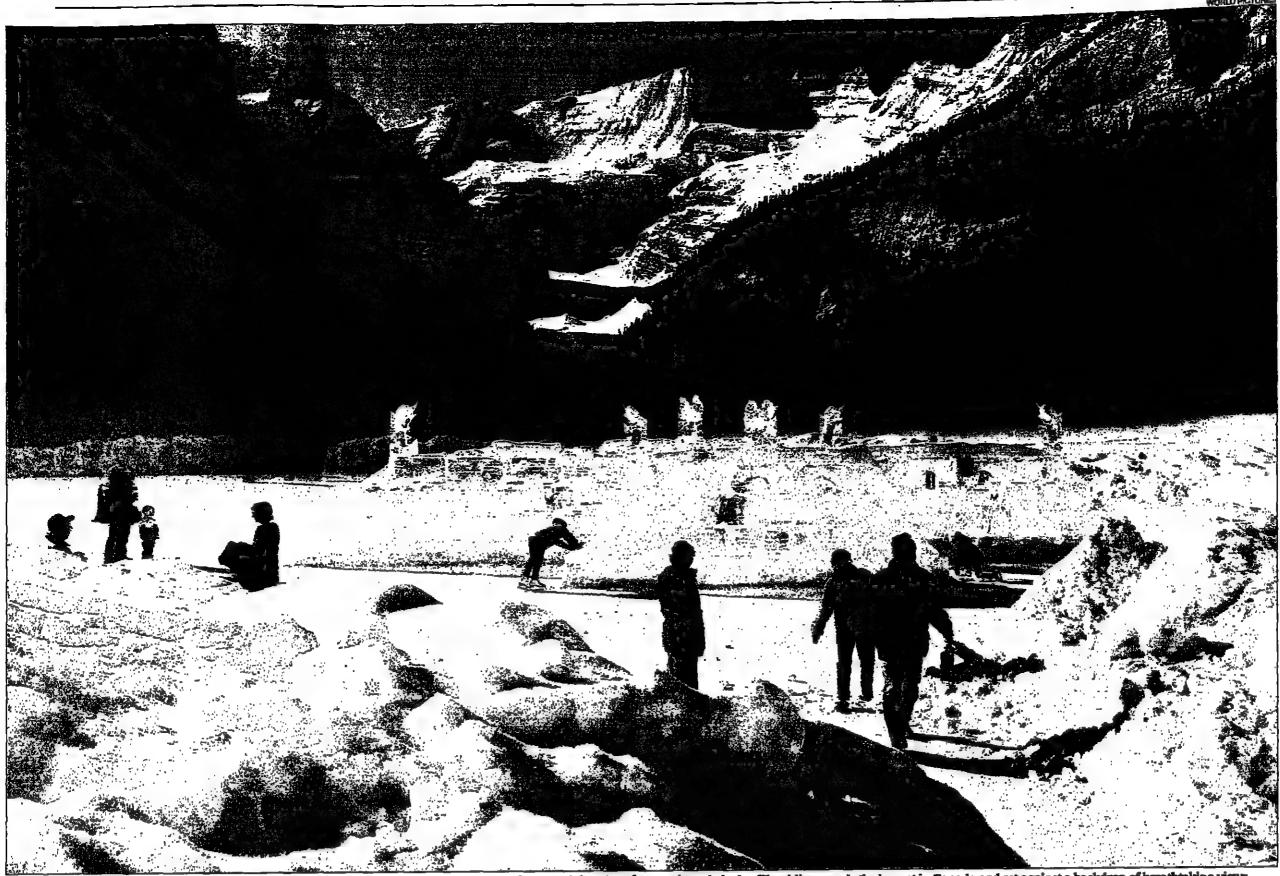
Not included: Travel insurance, lunches, gratuities





Canada: Patient instructors and massive malls make the Rockies ideal for a ski-snow-shop holiday

اعكذا من الاحيل



At Lake Louise you can skate on the lake, take sleigh and husky rides and cross-country ski around the edge of a tear-shaped glacier. The skiing area is the largest in Canada and set against a backdrop of breathtaking vie

The Rocky road to being a better skier

The last time I went skiing was in the French Alos, I was 16 and with a party of school friends. I was very interested in boys and getting drunk and I could not have cared less about physical activity. Not surprisingly, I was a hopeless skier. All-nighters in the disco did not make for success as a first timer and my hands shook too much to buckle my boot straps, let alone hold on to a pair of poles. I slid along on my bottom

being shouted at by the instructor and enduring pitying looks from my classmates who, by the time I got the hang of the snow plough, were mastering parallel turns. On the third day, I decided to skip lessons (which were, after ail, at the grotesque hour of 9am) and would venture outside in the late afternoon, for a bit of tobogganing.

So what was I doing, 11 years later, standing on a peak of the Canadian Rockies.

behind the rest of the class. knowing there were only two ways down: skiing or the blood wagon? The latter seemed the more appealing but my instructor would not hear of it. There was no way down but to depend on two flimsy pieces of wood and my poor co-ordination.

My character had not changed, I was still more interested in boys and alcohol than anything else, bar possibly shopping and gossiping with my girifriends. But the

friendly and patient (if not I would sue them). The same fact I was there was not quite could be said of America, but I was won over by the weak Canadian dollar and the fact that the Canadian Rockies were older and far more stunning than their younger. more ragged companions south of the border. Our first stop in a week's

tour of Alberta was at Banff. two hours' drive from Calgary airport. I had anticipated the usual resort tack and was astonished at the sight of our hotel: the Banff Springs, a gigantic Gothic castle, loomng from pine trees against a background of snow-drenched

the miracle it seemed. Some-

one had invented the perfect

holiday for me — a ski, spa

and shop week, in which the

horrors of the piste (known in

Canadian as a trail could be

more than compensated for by

the delights of evenings in the

Jacuzzi and hours at the mail.

about skiing but was won over

by the lure of Canada, where I

knew the instructors would be

I still had severe doubts

The Banff Springs was the largest hotel in the world when it opened in 1887 and it exudes a turn-of-the-century glamour that is rarely found in north America. Once inside, there is little need to venture the mile down the road to the town; the hotel has several restaurants where you can eat anything from fondue to excel-

ost attractive, hotel's brandnew spa complex, where you can swim in a stumning 32-metre indoor nool, which was totally deserted on my three visits, or in the outdoor pool heated to 40C and set in the shadow of Rundle mountain. There are indoor and outdoor Jacuzzis, a steam room and sauna and mineral pool as well as a host of specialised beauty and massage treatments. I did not fully

in ski company brochures. For information ring Ski companies that use the hotels include American Dream Holidays (0181-470 1181); Inghams Travel (0181-780 6600). All Canada Travel and Holidays (01502 585825). Canadian Airlines fly from Heathrow to Calgary. Return lares from E372. appreciate these luxuries how-

ever, until after my first day on

the ski slopes at Sunshine

Village, a 20-minute shuttle

ride away. Here, I strapped on

my boots with steady hands

FACTFILE

the article are part of the Canadian Pacific Group,

and many of them appear

and went up the mountain in a cable car. It was late March, but the snow was plentiful and powdery. I met my instructor, Colin, and within minutes we were sidestepping up the nurs ery slopes. I could dimly remember this bit. I could not, however, remember how to get down the hill and remain It took all morning for Colin to drum the rudiments of a snowplough into my head. Just before lunch we went up

on a chairlift and came down

the mountain with Colin lead-

ing me by the tips of my skis. a somewhat humiliating experience as toddlers rocketed by. Returning to the hotel, doubtful that I would make

lodge, where we splashed in

the outdoor pool, before de-

vouring a world-class five-

The last day of our trip was

spent at West Edmonton Mall,

the biggest shopping mall in

the world (whatever they may tell you about rival establish-

ments in America), a dazzling

collection of more than 800

shops, an indoor lake with

dolphins that is trawled by

four submarines (the Canadian navy only has three). There is a waterpark, heated

to 30C, with a wavepool, 16

waterslides and bungee jump-

ing and the world's largest

elegant fittings, enormous picture windows and several excellent restaurants.

From the hotel you can skate on the lake, take sleigh and husky rides and cross-country ski. I had time for none of this. Instead we took the ten-minute bus drive to the Lake Louise ski area, the largest in Canada, for more lessons.

n days two and three, I slowly im-proved, under the tuition of Colin and Anthony, both of whom showed the patience of Job. "You're doing really well," lied Anthony on day three, as I lay splayed on a green run. "Some week and never even make it up the chair." How often did this happen, I inquire. "Well, once, and the couple in ques-tion were in their 70s. The advanced skiers in our group

a 13-storey Drop of Doom and a quite terrifying rollercoaster, which we had planned to ride until we saw it. "Well, we've just had lunch, we don't have much time for shopping. I feel a bit bruised from skiing," we all muttered as we watched it loop and plunge. My talent for skiing may

indoor amusement park with

have been minimal, but my talent for shopping was undiminished. In less than an hour I bought so many things that I could not even begin to pack them. And this was before I hit the wonderful (and inexpensive) designer shops in downtown Edmonton.

The good siders in our group had been in heaven but for a bad skier, this was the perfect holiday. If I had simply decided to call it a day, there was plenty to do off the slopes. Yet thanks to the patience of my instructors, I was not put off at all. If I had performed this badly in the Alps my confidence would have been shattered for life, but Colin, Colin, Anthony and Trish be warned, you could well see me back in Čanada again,

LLEWELLYN SMITH The author was a guest of Canadian Pacific Hotels and

Canadian Airlines.

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P&O Cruises



America: On Tangier Island everyone has a Bible and a mail-order catalogue, Leslie Thomas discovers WEEKEND SATURDAY FEBRUARY 15 1997

Water everywhere, nor any drop to drink visiting dentist. Gwendolyr

There had been gusts of 90 miles an hour at the weekend, according to the locals, and the Maryland coast was strewn with pole-axed trees. But on Monday morning the little harbour at Crisfield was placid and Chesapeake Bay lay muddily below a muddy sky. The boat for Tangier Island was loading. Half the people on Tangier are my namesakes and the skipper was Stephen Thomas. We'll get you over," he promised. "But there's no saying when you'll get back." He sniffed at the stiff breeze. "It's coming up

It was the first time I had heard a Tangier Island voice, American but with the unmistakable accents of Cornwall. They say it was brought from England by the first settlers in that fragment of the New World. In the Baptist church on Tangier you could hear an evocation like this: "So, we'n goan to pry to our Lloyd Jeyzus Chroist." On Smith Island. named for Captain John Smith of the Pocahontas story, they also have a strong strain of West Country in their speech. But each island claims to sound different from the other and both - despite the Cornishness of their speech have a preponderance of Welsh names, the Thomas tribe on Tangier, the Evans family on Smith.

The crew claimed to be unhappy with the boat, the Captain Eulice. She was older and slower than the usual ferry, which was laid up for repairs, and she normally did the less frequent run to the Virginia shore. But although Tangier is officially part of Virginia, her lifeline is to Crisfield in Maryland. Just to confuse matters further, the boundary between the states cuts Smith Island in two.

Like all island ferries, the Captain Eulics was piled with the goods of everyday life building materials, food, crates of Pepsi, a huge television set, a new sofa with a plastic cover. I looked in vain for the beer or whisky or wine which would have formed part of such a cargo to most islands. No drink on Tangler," said Stephen Thomas emphatically. "It's a dry island." He eyed the skyline again. "And I reckon you'll be out there a few days."

Chesapeake Bay, although notably nasty weather. The wind can swing in minutes, throwing up the sea against "I hate the sea," said Yvonne . Breakfast and a Ladies' Cover-Smith, an islander, as we cast

Apex flights from

London Heathrow to

Baltimore with British



Safe haven on Tangler Island, off the coast of Maryland in Chesapeake Bay. Although almost landlocked, the bay is at the mercy of notoriously violent weather when I went to see her. She was watching afternoon tele-

off and headed for a large expanse of it. For 18 years she has made the journey weekly to and from the mainland where she works as a parttime waitress. "I earn my living over there," she said. gesturing at the receding background. "But my home is on Tangier Island. There's nothing for it but to make the

She sat with two other island women. Rosalyn Park and Susan Eskridge, old Tangier surnames. They tried out a face lotion which Susan had bought in Salisbury, Maryland, the nearest shopping centre. Their lives, they said, revolved around the island's two churches. They discussed the Men's Prayer plate Dinner where each

TANGIER ISLAND FACT FILE

usan said: "You'll find two books in every house on Tangier. One is the Bible and one is the mail-order catalogue. We would not be without either of them." an hour and a quarter and 14 miles after leaving Crisfield, we were

housewife took a secret

covered dish. The fun is when

several ladies bring the same

thing," said Yvonne. All three

were adamantly opposed to

any liquor being available on the island. We've got 700

people," said Rosalyn, shaking her head vigorously. "And 690 would be against it. It would

coming to the island. It measures three miles by one and lay so low that the white houses, the pointed church and the town water tower with "Tangier" written across it seemed to be afloat on the grey bay. We steered into a channel edged by skeletal wooden plers each with its small shack - the workplaces of the softshell crab fishermen who keep the place prosperous. There is a traditional cry as any vessel comes to the island haven, even if the answer is well known. "Where've you been?" It was called and answered.

We were there. Mailbags were unloaded; so was the sofa and the Pepsl. Ashore were two pick-up trucks and half a dozen electric golf buggies, the main island transport. I stepped on to the busy jetty. It began to rain. For 40 years I have been exploring and writing about islands; now I started to realise I had arrived in an unusual, per-

haps mysterious place. Tangier people are not sure how their island came by its name. There are stories that Captain Smith called it after the Tangier in Africa where he had once escaped from captiv-

ity, although there is no documented mention of the American name for more than a century after his arrival in a storm and with a broken mast. I suggested it might have come by its name after a ship called Tangler was wrecked there, which is the pattern with many small islands, but the locals doubted it.

The sea keeps chipping at the place. During the war of 1812 it was commodious to accommodate 12,000 British troops preparing to attack Baltimore. A redoubtable cleric, the Reverend Joshua Thomas, was asked to preach to them before they embarked. He by telling them God had informed him that the British would be roundly defeated. They were, too.

There is a tale that the first settlers got the islands from the Indians for a couple of overcoats," said Wallace Pruitt, as we drove in his golf buggy towards his house. His accent could have come from anywhere west of Exeter, but with a dash of Yankee. "My folks came over early, like most of the families here, the Pruitts, the Thomases, the Parks, the Dises." We were bumping along the lanes be-tween the white wooden houses. "See, most of them are still here," he pointed. We were passing backyards where lines of gravestones stood among satellite dishes, washing lines and children's painted bikes, Several gardens had accumulations of long. white tombstones, chipped out with family names; one yard, no bigger than half a tennis court, had 100 more or less upright stones. "They go back right to the beginning of the 1800s," said Wallace. "But now we take our dead to the

> It was a wet, bitter day. "Storms are coming back," he

mainland."

forecast, "It blows here, B'ain't cars and pick-ups and motornothing to stop it." He spends bikes and these golf buggies. two weeks on the island with We've got no golf course, his wife Shirley and then two We passed a warning weeks as a tugboat captain in "Speed limit 15. Speed Philadelphia. "There's some checked by radar." Tangier men work away, them that's not on the water, as we t half-past midnight call the crab fishing. But everybody comes back. Not a dark wind began to

stir and an hour later many leave. The children can Lthe promised gale be at school here right through was snorting across the cowerthe grades till they're 18, and ing island. Rain rattled that means they stay. On against the wooden house, Smith Island they go across by boat to Maryland to school even the water in the toilet pan swayed. It was a good time to and the population there is down to 350 — half ours." be in bed. When the storm eased the following afternoon We bumped across the midit was only to change direction. dle of Tangier over the wooden It was four days before I could bridges across the waterways called guts. "In the old days, said Wallace, "everything had

A hefty tree was leaning ominously over the roof of to be carried to different parts Dise's house of the island down the guts on

broke her hip last year and was taken off by helicopter. They went to Gloucestershire on holiday and once they had managed to find the way out of Gatwick ("it took hours — we didn't know what to do at roundabouts") they had a good time. "I loved everything about England," sighed Maureen. "The country, the people, the food."

in the summer Tangier Island must be a lovely place. Chesapeake Bay is a different sea then, there are beaches and anchorages, a perfect place for exploring and enjoying. But on those gale-bound winter's nights I wished it had a pub. There are two seasonal restaurants. One of them ventured to ask permission to serve a glass of wine with its tasty crab cakes and was

turned down flat. A one-time minister confidently forecast that if any place was permitted to sell liquor it would be burnt down. The islanders, especially the women, are in no doubt that drink is evil. "We can still enjoy ourselves," one lady told me reprovingly. "After church in summer, everybody gathers in Spanky's and they have a high old time." Spanky's is the ice-cream parlour.

n winter the only place to eat is a Formica-tabled room, little more than a shed, where the young people gather to talk and drink grim orange pop, icy and fizzy. The menu is varied. There's hamburger and fries, chicken and fries," said the waitress. "Or you can have a dozen oysters." I don't eat oysters.

Crime on the island mostly consists of restless teenagers playing hide and seek with the police car as they exceed the 15mph speed limit on dark nights. But there have been more serious matters. Tangier has an unsolved murder.

More than 50 years ago the local policeman was shot dead, a revenge killing, so the story is, because he had strongly admonished some men who were laughing as they sat on the porch in front of the closed store one sabbath. It is a tight community and the same families still live on Tangier, Somebody knows. Nobody has told.

Sometimes, too, the pressure of what the devout islanders think of as the truly good life proves too much for some individuals. Not long ago the minister of the church climbed out of the pulpit and left his sermons, his home and his medical centre. A doctor flies wife of 23 years, and went off

The Royal Cities of Rajasthan

vision in a warm room, pat-

ently a widespread winter

occupation on the island.

Years ago," she said, "this

house was moved on rollers to

where it is now, I can't see us

moving it again just because of

She was born 73 years ago near Stroud in Gloucester-

shire, and arrived in Tangier

as a GI bride just after the

war. "I was very homesick

when I first came here," she

recalled. "For months i didn't

get any letters, either. It turned

out that they were going to the

She worked as secretary of

the school and her daughter

in twice a week and there is a

trees falling down."

Tangier in Africa."

visiting Agra (the Taj Mahal), Fatehpur Sikri, Karauli, Jaipur, Bundi, Chittorgarh, Udaipur, Ranakpur, Luni, Jodhpur, Mandawa and Delhi

India, and Rajasthan in particular, has a wealth of India, and Rajasthan in particular, has a wealth of royal residences either in the form of palaces, forts or large estates. As in Britain, it has been difficult for ancestral families to finance the general upkeep of these properties without seeking additional sources of income. Whilst in Britain this has meant consist the buses to visitors in India where the opening the houses to visitors, in India, where the properties tend to have many bedrooms, their most

properties tend to nave many bedrooms, tried most appropriate use has been as hotels. The development of the very large palaces took place a number of years ago and they have firmly established their place on the visitors' timerary. More recently some medium and small-sized royal residences and palaces have been converted into small hotels under the banner of 'Heritage', and whilst the large palaces are generally run as inter-national hotels, these smaller properties and es-tates are still, in many cases, run in a 'hands on'

tates are still, in many cases, run in a 'hands on' manner by their original royal families. Fortunately these royal residences are conveniently located throughout Rajasthan, enabling us to compose a truty unique and rewarding itinerary which not only gives a marvellous insight into Indian history through its royal residences but also the chance to see some remarkable sights as we travel around Rajasthan at a leisurely pace. travel around Rajasthan at a leisurely pace.



Sample Itinerary in Brief gra2nts-Karauli 1nt-Jaipur2nts-Bundi 1 nt-Udaipur 2 nts - Luni 1 nt - Jodhpur 2 nts

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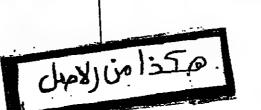
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ه كذا من الامها

International: Ottoman traditions survive in Bulgaria; cheaper ferries to France; plus holiday ideas

A forgotten Balkan beauty

100 miles ROMANIA Sofie BULGARIA

The white-haired old lady selling lace in Kyustendil market was philosophical as she pocketed the very small sum of money I needed to buy her beautiful tablecloth. "Lozo vreme," she said, and then sank her teeth into a large cheese and spinach pastry.

"Bad times" indeed they are for the inhabitants of this Balkan country with a poor image, once the home of the secret police with the poisoned umbrella, and now trying to cope with a plummeting cur-rency and disintegrating economy. After 50 years of hardline communism, the place and the people deserve better but have not yet found it.

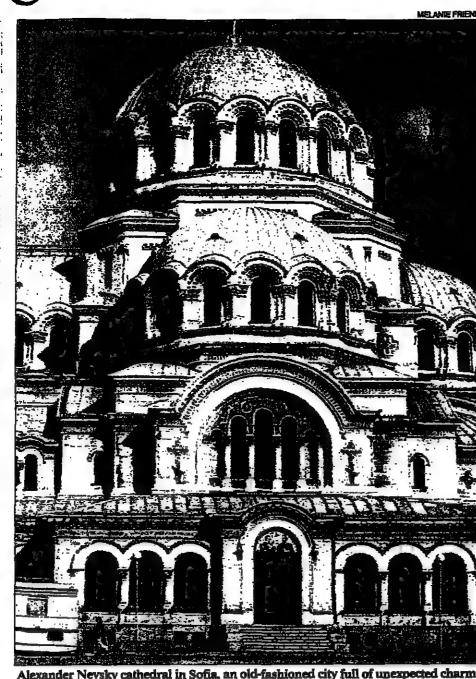
However, none of that affects the beauty of the mountains, the many unspoilt parts of the Black Sea coast, and the quality of the wine and the brandy. Thanks to the currency crisis, it is one of the cheapest destinations for hard currency visitors in Europe, with a good bottle of cabernet or gamay for as little as 40p and a meal for £1.

In the old days, Bulgaria was heavily promoted as a mass-market summer destination, with the wide sunny beaches of the Black Sea coast dominated by elephantine tourist developments such as Sunny Beach and Golden thought to be full of elephantine and sunburnt Germans.

But there is a good deal more, with skiing resorts such as Borovets and Pamporovo. evocative medieval towns and magnificent archaeological sites. Bulgaria makes an interesting, long weekend or city break. Skiing and summer holiday packages are outstanding value and quite civilised if you avoid the big Black

Most things in Bulgaria the city deserves a day or two in the historic centre, although the grim industrial outskirts are off-limits. It was once a vital Roman crossroads town, ancient Serdica, between Constantinople and Belgrade, and some wonderful churches survive from the Byzantine period. Visit Saint Sophia, echoing, mysterious, candlelit, a fragment of the ancient

world lost in the Balkans. There is a fine mosque, left from the 500 years of Ottoman occupation, and the grand synagogue is the largest in the region, with a vast copper-



Alexander Nevsky cathedral in Sofia, an old-fashioned city full of unexpected charm

covered dome that comes alight in the winter sunshine. Bulgaria's Jews fared rather better than in many neighbouring countries, and there is still a noticeable Jewish presence in parts of the city. The National Museum

holds the magnificent Thracian and Hellenistic goldwork found in royal tombs in Bulgaria, with drinking cups in the shape of deers' heads and beautiful gold vases. Nearby is the National Art Gallery, scene of the late Robert Maxwell's "benefactions" as he sought to curry favour with the Communist rulers.

Sofia is old-fashioned, rather like a black-and-white film of a Balkan capital, with little covered alleyways, beady-eyed thin cats and square, chunky inhabitants well wrapped up against the winter cold. Although the climate is continental, it is rarely arctic, and the closer you get to the Black Sea the warmer it gets.

Sozopol is perhaps the prettiest place to stay on the coast. An ancient Greek colonial

The skiing and summer holiday packages are good value and quite civilised if you

avoid the Black Sea resorts'

settlement, Sozopolis (Safe

City) was something to take seriously on this stormy littoral. The Greek mariners called it Ineuxine Pontus, the Inhospitable Sea, and it can be, but often in autumn and winter the weather is bright and mild. and there are fine walks along te deserted beaches fringed by beech woods. Greek is still spoken in the town, along oldworld wooden-housed streets. while Russian is becoming the business lingua franca of the

port of Varna to the north.

The departure point of Dracula's coffin on the way to Whitby in Bram Stoker's famous novel. Varna has the finest Roman monument along the whole of the Black Sea coast. the magnificent Thermae, a huge bath complex that allowed hundreds to relax after a hard day dealing in the equally vast Forum. Nowadays, the Russian timber ma-fia, who are something of a

force in the city, relax by roaring around in huge Mercedes with black windows. There are so many Russians in Varna that there are no fewer than three Rus-

sian-language newspapers.

A good winter trip that takes a couple of hours on the train from Sofia is to Ploydiv in the tobacco-growing south, called Phillipolis from the times of Alexander the Great. It is a civilised old town built on lous Roman theatre, one of the best preserved in the world, and some good mosques and churches.

Since the end of communism, trade links with both Greece and Turkey have grown and it has a more cosmopolitan atmosphere than most of Sofia, with a strong Greek, Gypsy, Armenian and ethnic Turkish element in the population.

♥ood can be very good if you know where to find it in Sofia. Restaurants can serve a surprising range of dishes besides the familiar salad plus grilled meat that every visitor to Greece knows so well. For food in the evening, try Dragalevski village on the outskirts of Sofia.

Collectors should visit the city's flea market, particularly good for old cameras and watches, aithough beware fake Leicas. Wine is every-

- FACT FILE -

■ British Airways Holidays (01293 723100) offers three nights at Sofia's Sheraton Hotel with buffer breakfast. from £505 per person for departures from Gatwick until March 25. Airlines flying to Sofia include British Airways (0345 222111), with a superpex fare of £354 return, and Balkan (0171-631 1840). from £229 return. Both require a Saturday night stay in Bulgaria.

Travellers could also fly British Airways to Salonika Greece, from £152 for an apex return, and then take the coach (five hours) to Sofia.

The Bulgarian leva currency, is in free fall. Take small denomination US dollars or German marks. Notes should be in good condition. Avoid Bulgarian ranks: use Greek.

Visas are available from the Bulgarian Embassy, 186 Queensgate, London SW7 (0171-584 9400) for £23.

Reading: Concise History of Modern Bulgaria, by R.J. Crampton (C.U.P, £10.95, ISBN 052156719X). The Inn at Antimovo and Legends of Stava Planina, by Yordan Yorkov (Slavica, £9.95, ISBN 0 893 57205 5). Bulgaria, by Jonathan Bousfield and Dan Richardson (Rough Guides, £9.99, ISBN 1858 28183 0).

where and excellent, although it is slightly odd to see Sainsbury's labels in English on bottles in corner shops. As buyers of 40 million bottles a year from Bulgaria, we are the main influence. The Black Sea coast has excellent fish, turbot particularly.

Hotels are standard Balkan on the whole, although the Sheraton in Solia is worth the expense. It is a fine atmospheric old communist building that has friendly, helpful statt and has happily avoided the unpleasant and aggressive "business culture" and astronomic prices of similar establishments in Central Europe. For a middle-market place try the Grand, or for somewhere cheap and cheerful but clean Bessada on Rakovski Street.

As elsewhere in Eastern Europe, the gangsters are powerful but interested in their own quarrels, not foreigners. Behave as in any big city, avoid unlit areas at night and if you go exploring some of the poorer parts of the towns, go with a Bulgarian companion.

Most Bulgarians are kind and helpful and there are plenty of hard-up students who speak good English and are delighted to act as unofficial dragomen, in the Ottoman tradition, for a small fee, If you are unlucky, do not resist: anyone who is anyone carries

a gun. The British Embassy num-ber (980 1220, at 38 Vasil Levsky Street) is useful in case of emergencies - and leave room in your luggage to take home plenty of wonderful

JAMES PETTIFER

JILL CRAWSHAW'S INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL TIPS

Battered face of Libya's

ancient Leptis Magna

Libyan interlude

THE magnificent Roman sites of Leptis Magna and Sabratha, the old Greek city of Cyrene, and fine collec-tions of mosaics and Ottoman mosques in Libya are proving popular cultural destinations by Prospect Tours (0181-742 1969), which offers five, eight and 11 day tours accompanied by experts. The managing diretor, David Lawson, admits that while his holidaymakers are pleasantly surprised by the friendli-

ness, safety and standards in Libya, they are less enamoured of their stay in Tunisia's Dierba, where they spend their first and last nights en route. The tour costs about £1,750.

Vatican bliss

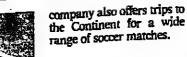
WEDDINGS in the small Baroque church of Santa Anna within the Vatican can be organised by Abercrombie & Kent (0171-559) 8686), and not just for Roman Catholics. The ceremony can be as simple or as lavish as you wish (horse-drawn carriages, famous tenors, full choirs or harpists), and are conducted in English. Couples must stay at least four nights in Rome to qualify, but those staying longer may have an audience with the Pope. Abercrombie & Kent charges E1.500 for documentation and the ceremony, while £3.000 buys a week's holiday (or honeymoon), flights, hotel accommodation and the wedding — considerably cheaper than the average £10,000 for the traditional British white wedding.

Petrol scam

TOUR operators offering "free car hire" as part of American holidays have come clean by showing the unavoidable extras holidaymakers have to pay to get their "free" car - about \$370 (£230) or so for two weeks in Florida. It's a pity, though, that many operators include in the extras the price of a full tank of petrol at just under El6 Thomsons is an honourable exception: its full tank costs £10.20). Either way, it assumes that you will return the car empty of fuel. In the land of cheap "gas", it rarely costs more than £9 for a fill up.

Tyson tussle

A TRIP to Las Vegas for the Tyson v Holyfield boxing re-match on May 3 is offered by David Dryer Sports Tours (017)-831 7799). The cost, from £950, includes scheduled flights, transfers, four nights' accommodation and fight tickets. The same



range of soccer matches.

Celestial

STUDYING birds (123 species) and plant life (at least 1,400 plus lots of bulbs) in meadows which have not been grazed since 1927, are the main aims of the 14-day trip to Central Asia's Tien Shan ("Celestial") Mountains offered by Russian Nature Tours (0181-667 9158). Included among the other highlights of the holi-day are riding or walking alongside sturdy pack horses, spotting Isabelline bears

or Marco Polo sheep, and homestays with expert local guides and ornithologists -- who have been bursting to practise their English for most of their lifetimes. The tour, "The Best of the Tien Shan Mountains", costs £2,050, with return flights from Britain, or £1,375 if you join at Tashkent.

French lessons

EUROVILLAGES (01606 734437) is offering five two-hour conversational French lessons on self-catering holidays in northern France from April 5-May 17. Accommodation is in cottages, a watermill and and barn conversion near Mont St Michel. The cost for a party for a week is £425, including ferry crossing for car and passengers.

Youth travel

INFORMATION on cheap fares, budget accommodation, travel passes, adventure tours and visas is detailed in a series of brochures on Australia and Asia, Africa and the Middle East, Europe and the Americas from the student and independent youth travel specialist Campus Travel (0171-730 3402). Among the deals: the "East Coast Discovery Pass" offering unlimited travel between Sydney or Melbourne and Cairns for £92 for under 26s; seven, 14 and 21-day Malaysia and Singapore passes from £23; a European Inter-rail pass for one month unlimited travel in 27 countries for £279.

Jeepers creepers

ADAPTED Icelandic Super Jeeps fitted with huge 44in tyres able to crawl over tank-stopping terrain, and driven by experts, are the vehicles used by Arctic Experience (01737 218801) on its three-night Super Jeep Breaks in March. Based on the village of Hella. weekenders will spend two days travelling through a wilderness of ice caps and gorges geysers and glaciers, moving to Reykjavik for the last night. The cost is £395 for flights and B&B, plus £30 for a food "kitty".



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Channel ferry crossing now. The strength of sterling close to Fr9 to the £1 — is the biggest factor for tour operators to predict a reverse in the fall in holiday demand for France since 1993. And the upturn coincides with the best-

ever early booking offers for

Trancophiles planning to

grimage to France will

rancophiles planning to take their summer pil-grimage to France will

make their francs go miles

further if they book their

cross Channel travel, as Le Shuttle and its ferry rivals continue to fight for sup-Peak season crossings for under £100, including Friday and Saturday sailings in school holidays, are available from Le Shuttle and all four

Sea France is the cheapest, offering a E75 fare for a car and four passengers travelling out between Sunday and Thursday, or £89 for Friday and Saturday.

ferry rivals operating out of

For a car and nine passengers, the Sea France price rises to £95, more in line with Stena (E98). P&O and Le Shuttle (£99) and Hoverspeed (£109).

(c) A Russian liquid measure equal to 2.7

imperial gallons. From the Russian word for a

pail or bucket. "The peasants of that province

drank this year 62,924 vedros of vodka more

(c) A pot or boiler, usually of cast iron.

Especially one with a bow-handle and three

feet. From the Old English verb yet to pour.

Answers from page 25

than last."

YETLING

Channel price war starts

CROSS-CHANNEL PRICES

on its Folkestone-Boulogne route, both for a car and five

But decide your plans quickly, because the special fares must be booked and paid for by February 28. After that, brochure prices of up to £268 will apply.

While still about 40 per cent cheaper than 1996 first-edition brochures, the tunnel and ferry companies are hoping to avoid a repeat of last spring's bloodbath when fares dropped to about £100.

In its brochure, Le Shuttle has cut its standard return price to £169 from £268 last year, while fares for the eight peak summer weekends drop to £199 from £328, "We want to have prices that are competitive and affordable," says the managing director of Le Shuttle, Bill Dix. "We are hoping not to mess around with discounts this summer." As market leader (with close

to a 50 per cent share before

the tunnel blaze), the ferries were expected to follow Le Shuttle in setting fares. But in first-edition brochures, both P&O and Stena Line have set fares higher than their rival. While still cheaper than

1996 brochures, P&O has set peak return fares on Dover-Calais at £268 and standard returns of £218. Stena has set

almost identical fares, £266

gush or shed. "A fine camp-kettle or yetling,

16's inches high by 12 inches in diameter, with

(a) A worthless person or scoundrel. From the Old French waignon, the north-eastern variant

(c) An administrative district in India under the

British Raj. From the Hindi word for a side,

three tall legs ending in claws."

part, district or division.

of gaignon a dog, cur or scoundrel.

WAYNOUN

ZILLAH

(Both routes: Car, two adults: Children Irae, entre adults £7) and £216 respectively, both for a car and nine passengers. The two companies appear to have been wrong-footed by Le Shuttle, which delayed brochures following the tunnel fire. The tunnel now expects to be back

> But P&O and Stena may wait until mid-March to publish second-edition brochures

in full operation by June.

Commission is expected to recommend the two companies be allowed to merge on the prime Dover and Folkestone routes. This will cut joint ferry capacity from ten ships to six. With fewer ships and growing demand for travel, the chances of a late price war are considerably less than last

Monopolies and Mergers

eanwhile, the two other operators, Sea France and Hoverspeed, can be expected to snipe away at prices. Both have yet to publish summer fares, but are relying on niche appeal. Hoverspeed has the fastest

crossing and offers extras such as a windscreen-wipe service and free newspapers. Sea France is the only Frenchowned company on the route and makes a virtue of its cuisine and style.

in accounting for 80 per cent with lower prices to match Le of cross-Channel travel, fares

from Dover and Folkestone set the agenda. So, on western Channel routes, Brittany Ferries and P&O have also cut prices to ensure they take their share of customers. Brittany has cut fares on average by 13 per cent and produced virtually identical fares to those of

Both are now in the same price range as Dover-Calais ferry fares, with both also introducing a ten-day fare offers on western routes to attract families taking oneweek summer holidays instead of the usual two.

Brittany has also employed other tactics to boost its share. with an emphasis on holiday sales, rather than ferry only. It has launched a camping brochure, expanded its Holiday Homes product, and taken over the marketing of Gites de France in Britain

The company expects nearly a quarter of its summer ferry customers to be taking one of its gite holidays, while reporting Holiday Home sales running at 18 per cent ahead of

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Britain: In search of a relaxing short break, one Times writer headed for Derbyshire, the other to Kent

Something for the weekend?

he children are head-ing off to friends for have 48 hours to yourselves for once and you live in the heart of a traffic-choked city. Where can you go for a couple of days that provides a variety of diversions and does not involve long hours on congested motorways?

irneli lessons

Youth travel

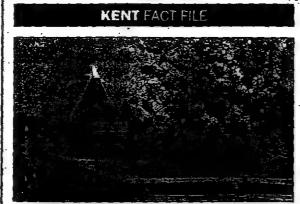
Accourage creepers

For Londoners, the Cots wolds, the Chilterns and the Suffolk coast are all within two hours' drive and all exert a powerful draw. But how many think of Kent? The county is too easily dismissed either as commuter belt - smart and unfriendly - or as that dull patch of country that has to be crossed to reach the Continent.

This is a mistake. Rural Kent is often beautiful, frequently surprising and easier to reach than the West Country. Leaving London at 7.30pm on a Friday, we were sitting down to dinner in Cranbrook

No doubt it would have been quicker by helicopter but not much. And indeed the Kennel Holt Hotel's five acres of gardens include a helipad of neatly-manicured grass be-yond the topiaried yew hedges that front the loth-century house. Most guests, however, arrive by more conventional means - to be greeted wetly but warmly by Clovis, the

giant schnauzer. The hotel has ten bedrooms (ours was huge), serious an-tiques and a kitchen where real cooking is done. The owners, Neil and Sally Chalmers, have dispensed with health and fitness suites and other accountements of modern hotel life and concentrated



Oast houses are a feature of the Kent landscape

Kennel Holt Hotel, Goudhurst Road, Cranbrook, Kent (01580 712032). Bed and breakfast £125 double, £85 single. Lunch and dinner 520 (three courses), 525 (four courses) without wine. Awarded two rosettes by the AA last year, the only hotel so honoured in Kent.

Ordnance Survey Cycle Tours (01703 792000) has 24 one-day routes in Kent, Surrey and Susser. £9.99. Other guides available for Avon, Somerset and Wiltshire; Gloucestershire and Hereford and Worcester and Dorset II Lamberhurst Vineyards, Lamberhurst, Kent (01892 890844). Free admission and wine tasting. Tour of the winery and cellars £3.95. Open every day 10am-5.30pm (except Cinistmas and New Year).

their previous lives they travelled extensively — he was a director of Saatchi and Saatchi - and learnt how hard it was to find good food and comfort. Kent boasts a greater concentration of houses and gardens open to the public than any other part of England, from the glories of Sissing-hurst Castle, home of Harold Nicolson and Vita Sackville-

coach parties -- to the roses of In all there are 28 houses

West - go late to avoid the

enough to keep visitors returning for years. One of the strangest is Chiddingstone Castle, near Edenbridge, a dall, ugly building which contains an extraordinary, idiosyncratic collection of artefacts built up by the eccentric bank lifetime of meticulous buying on limited funds.

crossed by footpaths which followed one route which took. and 37 gardens open to visitors us through an orchard into a



wood, across grazing land, past herds of bullocks and sheep and through fields field of wheat and barley - the crops parting like the Red Sea to reveal the footpath.

We cycled, too, from Tenterden to Rye and back by a circular route of 33 miles cunningly devised by the Ordnance Survey Cycle Tours guide to give the impression that it was mostly downhill. The best sections were the quietest — the lane across the flat marsh of Shirley Moor,

through woodlands east of Rye to Peasmarsh. But for a more sybaritic experience we visited Lamberhurst Vineyards, among the oldest in Britain with 30 acres of vines producing 30,000 bottles of a dozen different wines

Paul Cooper and Derek McMillen, who bought it in 1995 from Lord McAlpine for £2 million, are rapidly turning it into a thriving business with production aimed to rise to 60,000 bottles this year. A tour of the winery taught me how

laborious the making of sparkling wine is - requiring a second fermentation, freezing of the sediment in the neck of the upturned bottle and then a the frozen plug is blown out bubbles commanded a 50 per the equivalent still wine.

Is it worth it? Well, the wine we tried, accompanied by smoked salmon served in the airy oast house that has been the city on Monday afternoon. with the sunlight shimmering through the smog, and were home in north London in an hour and a half. The pleasures dimmed by hours spent in added half a dozen places to

JEREMY LAURANCE The author was a guest of the Kennel Holt Hotel and



Peak practice at walking around in circles

Mas Deen one of its favourite places ever since I discovered its Women's institute market on a day trip from Liverpool. If I find myself in the Pavilion Gardens early on a Saturday morning, I stock up on the blackcurrent jam and cider chutney which will remind me of my visit for long

afterwards. As well as being a holiday destination, the tiny town provides a perfect spot from which to explore the Peak District. My companion and I, persuading ourselves that we could see blue sky through the

woon, the Victorian spa gathering clouds, decided to knife-edge. On the left, the town in Derbyshire, navigate the heady heights of Vale of Edale dipped down Man Tor, drop down to Castleton and climb up again to complete a circular walk.

Because of the many roads that run through the Peaks, you can pick your starting point according to your energy. level. Ours were a little dampened by the dull weather and a . heavy breakfast, so we opted for a "halfway up" start, just off the A625.

A steep flight of steps from the car park leads to a well defined path, and this goes to the top of Mam Tor. As we walked we found ourselves tottering on a geographical

DWALTES EINE KLIVET INDE. OIT EL right, the town of Castleton was already bustling with walkers who had got up earlier than we had. The roads below were also dotted with the cars of visitors to the Blue John caverns. Walkers, visitors to the caverns, and their enthusiasm for the trinkets fashioned out of the mineral hine inho, are the source of the former lead-mining town's wealth. Winnat's Pass, a spectacular gorge, is also visible

from here. About an hour into our walk, we passed a National Trust marker to reach a point called Hollins Cross. Turning right, we began our descent into Castleton. The steep,

rocky footpath turned into a narrow avenue of ash trees. We trod this path, under the gaze of some friendly cows, and reached a road almost immediately. This road took us straight into Castleton. If the crowded network of slim

nas coman 1609 edition of the Breeches Bible, in which Adam and Eve sewed together fig leaves to make breeches. The ruined keep of Peveril Castle is visible from the graveyard, and this was to be the beacon for the return leg. If you are hungry, the best toasted sandwiches are to be had at the Rose Cottage Café.

Our return was accomplished by heading for Peveril Castle and climbing the steep hill to its right. This is no mean feat. The right-hand fork goes towards Rowter Farm and a nearby small path-cum-road. We turned right on this path. which eventually brought us to a main road (the B606).

Crossing the road and con- soirces. icross ine neid, we ni the A625. By turning left and walking along this road for a short time, we completed our circular walk. At a leisurely stroll, this leg from Castleton to the car park should not take more than 12 hours. On our return to the hilltop

Palace Hotel in Buxton, we treated ourselves to a relaxing swim and sauna. This was followed by dinner in the hotel's ornate hall, which in its heyday must have been a

much effort, head for the which leads to the caverns). superb setting for Victorian dens and a Georgian crescent

waters on an after-dinner stroll, at the town font, although we had to queue behind some embarrassed elderly gentlemen clutching huge plastic containers.

An evening stroll is perhaps the best time to take in the illuminated beauty of Buxton. Former Dukes and Duchesses of Devonshire wanted to turn it into the Bath of the north, resulting in elegant stone buildings, sculpted public gar-

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the palace of Gongwangfu, the epitome of classical Chinese architecture. In

the evenings we attend an acrobatic show and a Peking Duck banquer. In

Guilin we take time to visit the craft and antique quarter in the charming town of Yangshou. Accommodation is in hourious 4 and 5 star hotels throughout

n this carefully tailored itinerary, we have chosen some of China's best highlights for those whose time is limited. Beijing with its host

of monuments from the Great Wall to the Forbidden City to the Temple of Heaven: Xian, home of the Terracotta Army, the greatest

China Interlude

is the petite Buxton Opera House with its magnificent entrance and stained-glass windows. I dreamt of gliding in to watch an Oscar Wilde comedy wearing my 1920s beaded dress. Having failed to check the opera house schedule, however, we were faced with A Night of Country Music. Needless to say, my beaded dress went unworn.

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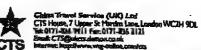
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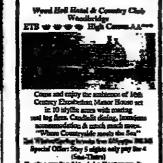


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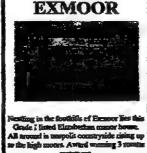
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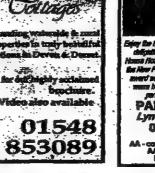
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CHESS

by Raymond Keene

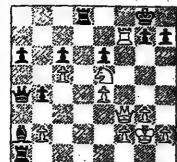
THIS week and next I shall be continuing to look at positions that have provoked lots of interest. I commence with one which attracted a torrent of suggestions from readers to improve on a grandmaster's sacrifice.

It is from the game Andersson-Winants, Groningen 1993, published as a Winning Move on January 27. The Swedish grand-master Ulf Andersson is renowned as a highly accomplished technical player. However, when the occa-sion demands, he can demonstrate his prowess as a fine tactical player. How did he win here? White to play.

Larris Brish

Island Islands

2 milagree



Andersson forced mate in seven with 1 Rxg7+! Kxg7 2 Qf7+ Kh8 3 Qf6+ Kg8 4 Qxd8+ Kg7 5 Qe7+ Kh6

6 Offs Kh5 7 g4 mate.

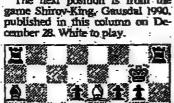
T. Webster of Sheffield suggests 1
Nd7, threatening 2 Rf8+ and meeting 1... Rxd7 with 2 Rf8 mate. The
best defence is then 1... h6 but White can still force checkmate with 2 Rxg7+l Kxg73 Qf6+, e.g.3... Kh7 4 Qe7+ Kh8 5 Nf6! and mate follows on move 8. Clearly, taking an extra move is no improvement.

However, S. Reuben of Twickenham has another suggestion: 1 Re7-Kh8 (1 . . . Ri8 2 Re8! forces mate) 2: Qf7 Rg8 (Black can delay matters with 2... Rg(+) 3 Oxg8+ forcing mate. 1 Re7 actually forces mate in six moves at most, e.g. 1 . . . Rf8 2 Re8 Rg1+3 Kh3 Rxg3+4 fxg3 Rxe8 5 Qf7+ Kh8 6 Qxe8 mate. Well done, this is one move quicker than the

Nevertheless, the quickest win was spotted by Mr R. Hawes of Kent, among many others: I Qg4 g6 2 Qh4 leads to mate in five, e.g. 2 Rg1+ 3 Kh3 Rxg3+ 4 fxg3 h5 5 Qxd8 mate. Congratulations to all

those who wrote in improving on the grandmaster's play.

The next position is from the



wonders why Black cannot play 32... Rxh2+ 33 Kxh2 Qh4 "mate". In fact this is not mate, for White can play 34 Bh3. The backwards move of a piece is often hard to spot.

Finally this week, a position from the game Capablanca-Graham, Newcastle 1919. White has great pressure along the open c-file and the hi-as diagonal. How did he combine these two elements to force a quick win? White to play-



Solution: 1 Rxx6+! Qxx6 2 Ne7+ Rxe7 3 Qxx6+ and wins on

Dr Toescu of Birmingham has spotted an interesting alternative: 1 Ne7+ Qxe7 2 Rxc6+ Rxc6 3 Qxc6+ Kb8 4 Rcl, where Black has no defence, e.g. 4... Qd8 5 Qh5+ Qb6 6 Qd7 and White wins. However, this is rather slower than the original play, so Capablanca's continuation is to be preserved.

WINNING MILE

By Raymond Keene

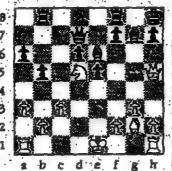
White to play.
This position is from the game
Mukhametov - Yagupov, Orel
1994 With his two hishops and central nawn mass. Black will have a good game unless White acts quickly. In fact, he acted very quickly. What did he play? Send your answer on a postcard to The Times, I Pennington Street, London El 9XN. The first correct answer drawn on Thursday will win a year's subscription to the Staunton Society, which includes a free invitation to the annual dinner at Simpson's in-the-Strand. The

answer will be published next-

Last week's solution: I Neg5 (1 Nfg5 works equally well).

Last week's winner: T.W. Spurr,

Hazel Grove, Welton, Lincoln.



taking popular cartoon characters from the small screen and putting them into video games for the PC. But despite potential rich pickings, the often cheap and nasty results suggest that franchises are being

sold off regardless. The Simpsons Cartoon Studio, from Pox Interactive, is an exception to the rule. This lets you put ingether your own original Simpson adventure in an electronic jigsaw puzzle.

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Making a cartoon is a logical process. Just select a character and drag it around the frame and, as you do, it animates a selected action, such as walking, running or looking suitably horrified. Having mapped out the various entrances, actions and exits your players, at any point you can start building up the soundtrack with music snatch es, sound effects and scores of familiar quotes from the Simpsons.

It is the one-liners, by the original actors used in the series, which adds the zing. Bart gets most entries, including "Hey, check this out man", "You'll like the nerd roden" and the classic "Bye, I'm off to get atmood". Homer hits include "Ooh, pork rinds", "Watch me and maybe you'll learn something" and

- was submitted by A.P.Ridge of York "Please, take the boy". Lisa's trumps are "I weep for the male gender", "How cartoony can you get?" and "Yes, I'm going to marry a carrot". Mum Marge specialises in a selection of trade-mark

throaty grunts while baby

Maggie makes five sucking

noises. There are another 15

or so characters from the

series to incorporate as well

... and now may I introduce the donor of your sperm?"

The winning caption for last week's cartoon (above)

as countless backgrounds and props. Cartoon studios first appeared about three years ago but few run as smoothly as this, which comes on dualformat Windows and Mac

Equally irreverent are Beavis and Butt-Head, stars of the MTV series, who do not fair nearly so well in their latest video game appearance, Beavis and Butt-head in Little Thingies. From Viacom New Media, this title and two more due soon - Weiner Takes All and Calling All Dorks — are released under the "MTV Cheap Clicks" badge, which claims, inaccurately in this case, that "the best things in life are cheap". Each title sells for £9.99, which is £10 too much.

PUNCHLINE

READERS are invited to write an amusing caption for the cartoon (right), from The Strand Magazine (reproduced from Westminster Libraries, Sherlock Holmes Collection, Marylebone Library).

The cartoon will be printed again next week with a caption from those submitted.

Send caption suggestions on a postcard with your name and ddress to: Strand Caption 39, Weekend, The Times, London El 9XN.

The Editor's decision is final. The closing date for entries is Wednesday: Rebruary 19.



WORD WATCHING By Philip Howard

VEDRO a. A primitive periscope b. A fit of the Veda c. A Russian measure

YETLING A yearling heifer
 Dilly-dallying
 An iron boiler

WAYNOUN a. A scoundrel

b. A toponym c: A travelling man ZILLAH a. The Lydigan letter Z

b. Oomph

c. A district

Answers on page 20

BRIDGE

by Robert Sheehan

THESE were the North-South cards in question I of the Christmas

> ₹5432 +5432 45432 N S + KQJ 10 **YKQJ** +KQJ

You were told that neither opponent has a suit longer than four cards. How many tricks can you guarantee in a No-Trump contract? The problem is based on one constructed by Denis Young, who

originally allowed a defender a five-card spade suit. His solution places East with all the aces. East ducks six times (after South plays two rounds of spades, and say two of hearts and one in each minor); then East takes four aces leaving a three-card ending of this type:



East cashes the ten of hearts, and if South misguesses on each of his next two discards he makes no more tricks. As the first squeeze card could be in any suit, Young

calls it a "Progressive Quadruple Pseudo Squeeze". In Young's ver-sion South can only guarantee six

In the version set for the Christmas competition, as no opponent has a suit longer than four cards, the defence's spades must be 11 and so declarer plays on spudes. The best the defence can do is to win the ace of spades and return the suit; declarer cashes the rest of the spades, scoring three tricks. That reduces the problem to how many tricks can South make out of his three sets of KQJ.

I thought that a similar ending to Young's would arise, with declarer able to make one more trick than in the Young version. However, the restriction on the spade length has a more severe effect. David Price points out that declarer should play on just two suits. Say he takes four tricks by playing red suits twice. He now has seven tricks in the bag. and is left with:

+KQJ

Now he plays a club. If the red suits split 2-0 in different hands, there is not the communication for each defender to cash two tricks in his suit. And if one defender has all the aces, he must necessarily also have a small club (because clubs cannot be 5-1), and so must concede a club at the end. So the answer is. declarer can guarantee eight tricks. not seven as I claimed in my answers on January 4.

The change in the marking of this question makes Joe Merz of Norwich the quiz winner, and he gets two magnums of Moët et Chandon champagne. Other placings are unchanged.

DEMPLITER GAMES AND PASTIMES

by Tim Wapshott



Make up your own Bart storyline in Fox's Simpsons Cartoon Studio

In Little Thingies, on Windows CD-Rom, you play as Beavis or Butt-Head in four banal platform games. The first is set in a fast-food store where you fend off irate customers by lugging burgers at tached and, the major achievement them, and that is as exciting as it by the developers, none of the and keyboards by gently warming gets. Catching falling goods, matching pairs and aiming at passers-by make up the other three. Sold as a multimedia experience

for younger children is Pink Panther's Passport to Peril, from Anglia Multimedia. The slinky Pink Panther earned his place in cartoon history in the early 1960s, after making his debut in the title sequence of Blake Edward's film of the same name about the hapless Inspector Clouseau. Pink Panther cartoons went a little against the grain at the time by using highly stylised back-grounds and impeccable scores inspired by Henry Mancini's original Panther

The Pink Panther theme is the first thing you notice missing in this Pink Panther title, instead the short overture is a poor stab at some-thing in the Mancini mould. A point and click adventure. must direct the Panther

through a succession of interactive scenes in his bid to save world peace. The title runs sluggishly, voice characterisations are deoriginal charm of the series has managed to dribble into any part of the Windows CD-Rom spin-off. This is the last chance for any

budding poets out there to enter Cyberspace Thirty, which closes after first post on Tuesday, February 18. Star prize is a Polaroid PDC-2000 digital camera, worth £2,050. The futuristic camera stores up to 40 24-bit photographs and is fully automatic. It works with either Mac or IBM compatible PC and comes with appropriate software. Three runners-up will win Polaroid 636 CU cameras, each worth £30,

which take regular pictures.

To enter, you are invited to write a short love poem dedicated to Bill Gates, supernova of the computer age. You do not have to mean it. Your odes should be tresh, inspiring, entertaining and, preferably, scan. Send your poems, together with your name, address and home telephone number, to: Cyberspace Thirty, Computer Games and Pastimes, Weekend, The Times, 1 Pennington Street. London El 9XN. Normal Times competition rules apply and the judges will not enter into additional corres-

pondence. your existing products in a hot oven (gas mark 6, 400F/200C) for three to four minutes." Top Tip from J. Sendel of Sheffield.

THE LISTENER CROSSWORD

No 3397: Rueoc ed Irc by Le Gallois

The peripheral lights are clued in random order and in a special way (clues A to H) leading to an indicator to the final entry. The relationship between the indicators and lights can be found in appropriate form and place in the grid: these squares should be shaded.

Nineteen of the remaining clues contain a misprint of one letter in the definition section. The misprints, in sequence, spell out an instructive quotation. Other clues are normal. Chambers is recommended, but does not give three proper nouns, nor half of the peripheral lights.

Fighter frees Norse God Enjoy hat day tanning Major faults hit bed testing Wise men could solve mystery

Labour cannot win yet Dashing men all get one Red fury maybe ending icy spell

When slow mist invests ACROSS

23 25 26

See preamble (5)

See preamble (7)
Rupture takes long time abed (8)
Just Scottish Unionist in bank (4) Pole perhaps returning from space circuit (6)
Forward (and back) the French take poor Fifer (7) Character to doctor magic wheel (5)

Cart for meals so they say (5)
Disgusting old bachelor leaving the stage (5)
Tiny piece in plant cart methodically (9) Mostly covering old most (4)
Commune goes to work at the end in gloom (4)

Sanction apparently to rip off goddess (9) Hears record of girl lost at the front (5)

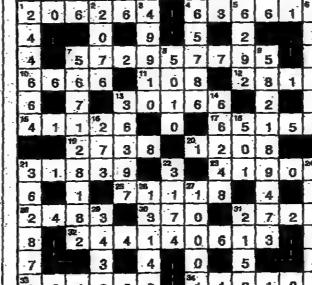
Settle a mess (5) Aster's aureole in a segment (5) Strange items leading to cattle hybrid (7) Contrived approval in pupil (6) Music store (4)
White crystal formation old fool found in lake (8) See preamble (7) See preamble (5)

See preamble (7) Girl leaves fragment of address (3) Kick over traces and give another tart (6) Promoted after one hand (4) They speed prematurely to patricians in distress (12) It's a handicap to dress up (4)
Slow to assimilate hard part of Kant (5) Ripe, mostly old and fat (5)

See preamble (5) Poet's centre of serenity (4) Hard part to see (4) Smooth core to rugged Hellenic (8) Measure to fatten and fortify (8) Fag's expression of joy before annual return (4) Game before dawn (4)
Sort of ramp after path leaves temple (4)
Hazardous but without question convenient (4)

See preamble (7) Plant concrete yard (6) See preamble (5) He wrote one about secret hoard (5) A hunger in little hospital? (5) Head fascist changing at last (4)

Passages central to speed (4)
One who supports at the end Eastern victory (4) Head up after day of pain (4) Toy tub (3)

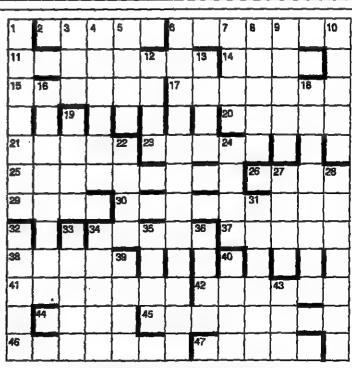


Solution to No 3394 Angles by RadGraDeg

A=15, B=19, C=5, D=25, E=1, F=9, G=3, H=7, I=17, J=4, K=21, L=13, M=11, N=16, O=23, P=14, Q=24, R=2, S=26, T=6, U=22, V=8, W=10, X=18, Y=12, Z=20.

The winner is: A.Green of Hemel Hempstead, Hertfordshire

The five runners-up are: Howard Cudmore of Cheltenham, Gloucestershire; Richard Levy of Newbury, Berkshire; T.Lockhart of Guildford, Surrey; S.Mescock of Winches-ter, Hampshire; M.White of Malvern, Hereford and Worcester



LISTENER CROSSWORD No 3397 in association with Waterstone's

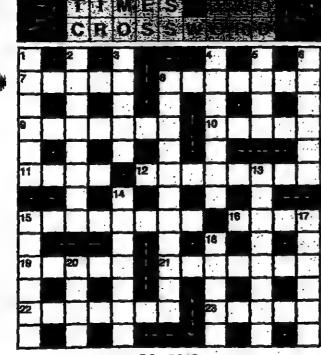
Cut out and send the completed crossword and coupon above to The Listener Crossword No 3397, 63 Green Lane, St Albans, Hertford-shire AL3 6HE, by Thursday, February 27.



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No 1018

1 - Edison, Gainsborough

6 Gain (6)
8 One chipping in (11)
13 Unstinting (8)
14 Study of metre and verse (7)

(4.4).
3 Singing group (5)
4 Irregular datum (7).

5 · Booty (4) ...

ACROSS 7 Bootleg witiskey (US) (5) Frankness (7) War of the Worlds invader

(Wells) (7) 10 Compositional idea (5) A mammat, fasten up (4) 12 Intense white lamp (3.5) Give account of (8)

Peruvian Indian (4) Desert waterhole; pop GLOnb (2)

"Like a - in the sky" (Carrolli (3-4)
22 Mounted bullfighter (7)

23 Where Joan of Arc burned

SOLUTION TO NO 1017 ACROSS: 4 UHT 8 Earthen 9 Repel 10 Layer 11 Indulge 12 Modestly 14 Raft 15 Look 16 Innocent 20 Consign 21 Usage 12 Modestly 14 Raft 15 Loc 23 Shift 24 Surreal 25 Yes

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15 Is limp, sounds like fruit with stones (6) 17 Nobody in particular (6) 18 Native New Zealander (5) 20 Footwear item (4) DOWN: I Velhum 2 Orly 3 Thorns 4 Unwillingness 5 Trade 6 Spillage 7 Fluent 13 Doornall 15 Locust 17 Oeuvre 18 Trebly 19 Mitty 22 Aden

challin 1550



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Honda's Valkyrie offers a ride to remember



Why the art of touring matters to BMW



SATURDAY FEBRUARY 15 1997

'My classic car was stolen from my garage and I cannot get it back. It is scandalous'

APRILIA HELP SOUGHT

Dear Sir,

I am a new Club member as a consequence of buying a series 1 Aprilia in a state of considerable disarray, that is to say it was dismantied some years ago by someone with more enthusiasm

The object of this letter is to see if any member knows of the car.

It was originally red with black seats and was registered as FYW102 or DND500. The chassis number is 38-1015

If you have any information I would be pleased to hear from you.

P. F. Willmer



This letter shocked David Watson; the Lancia Aprilia belonged to him More

than a year later - and after a thief

has been fined — it has turned into a

legal nightmare. Tony Dawe reports

avid Watson could not believe his eyes when he opened his monthly magazine from the Lancia Motor Club. There, at the top of the Letters page, was a request for more information about a 1937 Lancia Aprilia from a man who had recently acquired it.

The classic car was the very one Watson had owned and loved for 25 years . . . the car he thought was still in a lock-up garage awaiting recovation. A few telephone calls confirmed his worst fears: the Aprilia, number 15 off the Italian production line, had

been stolen, sold to a dealer and bought in good faith by another enthusiast. Watson made his shocking discovery 16 months ago. To day, he is still without his beloved car, even though the thief has been caught and fined. Next month he hopes a civil court will order its return.

legal costs have reached 17,100. The story reveals a serious legal loophole which could affect thousands of motorists and also underlines police reluctance to get involved if civil law can be invoked.

but that is not certain. His

In a simple world, Peter Wilmer, who bought the car, prould have been able to check that it was his to acquire legally. Similarly, the police could have seized the car and returned it to Watson on discovering it had been stolen and he was the official owner. Neither of these things hap-pened and it may require legislation to ensure that the story is not repeated time and again.

Watson's love affair with the Aprilia began in his late teens and by the time he was 21, in 1961, he had acquired a sleek midnight blue model, registration number DND 500.

Eventually, the big end went. Watson married and looker for a more reliable car. Even though he acquired fordshire Police informing

another 1939 Aprilia, FYW 102, for spares, the renovation continued slowly. Watson and his family then moved from St Albans to Suffoik, where he built a workshop and dreamed of completing the restoration.

Watson already possessed the brown log books for both cars, but took the trouble to reregister them at his new address with the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency. The original Aprilia remained in a rented council garage in St Albans with the spares carefully arranged on racks.

When I returned after reading the letter in the Lancia. magazine, the car had disappeared, the racks were empty and all that was left were a few useless bits and an old plano which had also been stored there," Watson says.

t did not take the police long to piece together what had happened. Willmer, of Solihull, West Midlands, had bought the car from Tancred Barratt, a Lancia specialist of Callow Hill near Kidderminster, who had in turn bought it from David Janes. When inter-viewed by the police, Janes said he he been told he could clear the garage in St Albans because the rent had not been paid, although Watson had, in fact, maintained payments.

At that point, amazingly, the investigation stopped," Watson says. "The Crown Prosecution Service informed me that no further action would be taken and, although West Midlands police had placed an order on the car forbidding Willmer to dispose of it, no effort had been made

to return it to me.' Watson turned detective to disprove Janes's story, the police reopened inquiries and in November last year, Janes was found guilty of stealing the car and fined £200. The official letter from Hert-

action. PC Mick Jackson of

civil action." Watson says: "I have had something stolen from me, yet a dealer to check up on the background of a car." However, as Barratt points

tor traders are privy to information which is not, in fact, available to them."

Willmer says. "We should be able to write to the agency to

The agency says it is prohibited from providing this infor-

TRAFFIC DEBATE

What you want on the road ahead

ritons are more concerned about pollubion than they are about congestion on the roads and overwhelmingly believe that improving pubile transport is the best way to tackle both problems. writes Alan Copps.

A majority say they would be prepared to pay more tax if it was devoted to attempts to solve the problems of pollution and congestion. Up to £2 per week was thought a reasonable price to pay for better transport by 40 per cent.

These are the main condusions of an opinion poll carried out for Car 97 in association with Autoglass, Britain's leading windscreen specialists, as part of our continuing debate on the future of driving. Nearly half of those asked said they thought

that lottery funds should be made available to improve transport.

But, despite the support for better public transport, few gave much consideration to changing the way

Of the main parties, 30 per cent supported Labour's transport policies, 25 per cent those of the Goverument and 10 per cent those of the Liberal

Democrats. There was very little support for the building of new roads. But a majority also opposed the efforts of protesters such as those who recently had to be cleared from underground tunnels on the route of the A30 in Devon.

However, 5 per cent of respondents correctly named "Swampy" as the leader of the protesters. Only half as many could name Sir George Young. Secretary of State for Transport, and only one person from the sample of 1,024 correctly named Andrew Smith, Labour's transport spokesman, and David Chidgey, the Liberal Demotrat spokesman.

SEE PAGE 5

cars. Similar data, based on Mike Watkins, the AA's head of legal advice. "The law insurance and leasing commakes it clear that the innopany records, can be accessed for a fee by vehicle tracking cent purchaser has to return to the car to the rightful owner firms such as HPI. This is not, and will then have to go back however, a fool-proof system. through the chain to try and In the Aprilia case, Willmer

recover his money." Willimer accepts the position. "My dream is that Watson gets his car back and I get my money back from the dealer." Only the civil courts can decide if that will happen,



David Watson: the legal loophole he is caught in could affect thousands of owners if there is no new legislation

Watson of the outcome asked him to telephone "if there is any property you are waiting

That should have been the end of the matter, but the case had become clouded because Willmer had paid Barrett thousands of pounds to continue the restoration and, not surprisingly, neither wanted to lose the money. Both men, together with Watson, were by then embroiled in a civil Hertfordshire Police says: "If a car is reported stolen and we find it, we would normally undertake to have it returned to the owner, but this procedure can be complicated by

I am the one who has had to prove all the points all the way. It is scandalous that there is no legal obligation on out: "The public has a complete misconception that mo-

Neither would the DVLA have provided Willmer with the information. "The one very simple and clear-cut solution is for the DVLA to co-operate with prospective buyers,* say we are considering buying a car and receive details about the registered keeper."

mation by the Data Protection Act and can only confirm the information on its records to the registered keeper. The agency will give details to the police and holds information about stolen and scrapped

exist of cars being left off the stolen register.
"Somebody has to be the loser in these situations," says

bought the car before Watson

realised it had been stolen and

thousands of other examples

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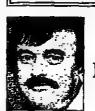
MPs in a traffic jam of platitudes

n the past three weeks politicians from each of the main parties have set out in Car 97 a kind of manifesto for transport, explaining how they would reduce congestion, deal with vehicle pollution and transfer more traffic from road to rail. There are several common threads running through these articles, notably an

absence of detail and costing. There is also a large degree of unity: as with the vicar who was against sin, the Conservatives. Labour and the Liberal Democrats think road congestion is a terrible thing and something ought to be done about it. But I have now read all their words at least twice and ant unclear as to what exactly they are proposing, let alone what it

So far as can be discerned, the main weapons all three parties will

DRIVEN TO DISTRACTION



Peter Barnard

deploy are the platitude and the cliché. These devices are the red cones of the transport debate, in that they pepper the landscape as far as the eye can see, often to no purpose. Andrew Smith, for example, said that Labour would "open real choice in

transport" and make public transport alternatives "accessible, reliable and convenient".

Now Mr Smith's party is likely to be in power come May I. short of the entire Shadow Cabinet being caught in flagrante with the Spice their youth vote). But there is no word as to how real choice would be opened, or how public transport would be made more convenient.

The reason is obvious. There is no public transport because the Tories have sold it. So is Labour going to schedule buses and trains and impose these schedules on the owners of bus companies and the railways? Is Labour planning to start its own bus company? Will London commuters find themselves ferried along the Thames courtesy of that famed former seaman, Captain Prescott?



We are not told. Interestingly, Mr Smith goes into some detail on a single matter; using technology to tell drivers where the jams are so that they can take avoiding action. Mr Smith spends nearly a third of his article on this matter, surely an admission that there is little chance of shifting traffic off the roads so we might as well give

drivers more information and let them get on with it.

Don Foster of the Liberal Democrats is no less prone to platitudes. but does have one good idea. He is surely right that the tax benefit on company cars is absurd when there is no tax relief on workers using public transport. But his view that large cars should pay

more vehicle excise duty than smaller ones, a differential to be financed by an increase of 4.5p on a litre of petrol, is seriously flawed. For one thing, most owners of large cars can afford the commensurate costs. For another, yet more duty on fuel punishes everyone, especially elderly and low income people living in rural areas where

cars are essential. Is Mr Foster going to provide a bus for my hamlet of 15 houses?

And so the Tories. Transport Secretary Sir George Young is also prone to platitudes, and of course it is the present Government that has given up much of its influence over public transport by selling it. But Sir George at least recognises that the car is endemic and that the notion of a ban on all new road building is plain lunacy.

And on one matter he has an unlikely bedfellow in Mr Foster. Both believe that more of the decision-making on transport should be at local level, rather than officials from the Whitehall monolith deciding whether Great Choking-under-Furnes should get a bypass. But half the councils in the country could pass a road scheme: who raises the money, and how?

One must not be churlish: the politicians who wrote for Car 97 understand the issues and recognise the scale of the problem. But they ask more questions than they answer and their words take me back to what I have said before; only motorists can really solve the problem, by abandoning cars for some journeys in favour of a bus to the station and a train to work.

Japan's year of the diamond

looks like any other Toyota, but it bristies with technology which could make it the safest car in the world. There is a warning system which sounds if the driver gets too drowsy. automatic headlamp adjustment, a system to see around system and fire alarm.

Then there is an automatic braking system to stop the car ploughing into the one in front plus an airbag in the bonnet to protect pedestrians.

The experimental car is being evaluated in Japan now but the gadgets could be available by the turn of the century, says Toyota. That promise could be dismissed as just another from a carmaker which has devised technology which never seems to appear in the showrooms.

But Japan's biggest carmaker spends more on research than any other and boasts it can have a car from drawing board to metal in an astonishing 18 months. So if it decides to introduce something like automatic braking. Toyota can have it on assembly lines in months rather than years.

This is the 60th anniversary of Toyota, which makes the business a relative youngster beside the pioneering names in motoring. Yet the company is now a colossus, making more than 3 million cars a Year in Japan and more than I million in 25 countries around

the world, including Britain. The company has a reputution for conservatism but when it decides to invest, it spends serious money, as the UK plants at Burnaston, Derbyshire, and Deeside, North Wales, can testify. Toyota has

Kevin Eason on

the carmaker whose founder rivalled the

achievements of Henry Ford

MARQUE OF THE MONTH ΤΟΥΟΊΑ

spent £1 billion on the car factory at Burnaston and the Deeside engine plant, and pledged to double output of cars with the addition of the Corolla model to the Carina E aiready produced here.

Toyota will be exporting around three-quarters of output, with mainland Europe the main target. And it is not just cars which will be big export earners, for Deeside sent around 16,000 complete engines to Turkey in 1995 and another 35,000 engine blocks and crankshafts back to Japan.

However, the company's veiled warning to the Government recently that prevarication over whether Britain joins the single currency could affect investment here should not come as a surprise. Toyota came to the UK because of its access to the key European markets as much as for relatively cheap labour and an efficient and enthusiastic workforce. A Britain outside

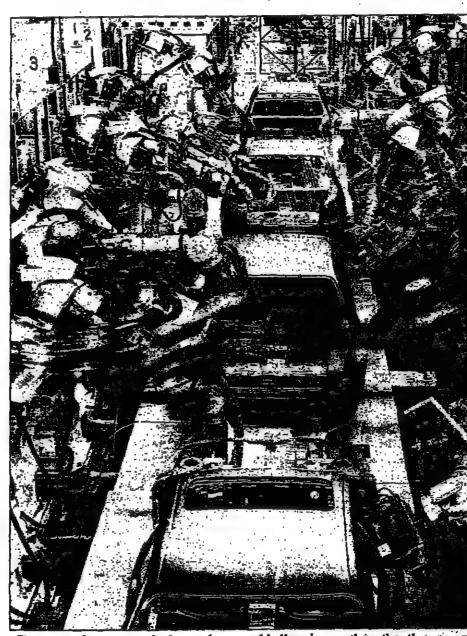
TO LEATHERHEAD

Japanese carmaker. Inskie Europe, Toyota will probably start production of a third model at Burnaston by the end of the century. a replacement of the Starlet mini, to raise production to a potential 360,000 cars a year and make Toyota as big a manufacturer in this country as Vauxhall.

The investment is a fitting chapter in the history of a company whose formation was inspired by Britain. The Toyoda family was in the weaving and textiles business until Kiichiro Toyoda travelled to England in 1929 to sign a deal for a new automatic loom. He liked the loom - but he liked potential of the car better. At the time, Ford was making 5 million cars a year in the United States: car ownership in Japan was just 80,000. almost all imports.

oyoda set aside a corner of his factory for engine design but it was not until 1935 his prototype Al, an aerodynamic 3.3-litre saloon, was produced and not until August, 1937 that the Toyota Motor Company was established, ready to

make 1,500 cars a month. Kiichiro toured the plant himself, often getting covered in oil, but devising the system that would revolutionise the industry - just-in-time delivery, so that his factories did not need to carry expensive stockpiles of parts. That system is now used by just about every carmaker and Toyota theories for manufacturing are now thought as epochmaking as those of Henry Ford, a remarkable tribute to the man and the company.



Toyota can have a new device on the assembly lines in months rather than years

M4 J1-2 Major works and A4 closures in both directions. A306 Hammersmith Bridge M1 Hendon area. Major works, no access A1. A30 Hounslow, Single alternate lane traffic on Staines Road. A406 Upper Edmonton. Major

OSOUTH-EAST M40 Jia-2. Roadworks with M27 J8-10. Floadworks with

A303 Andover, Off-peek clo-sures and full overnight lane closures. M2 J5-6. Imide lane and hard

lane closures SOUTH-WEST A35 Christchurch bypass. Lane M5 J13. Major works, only one

M5 J17-20. Contration across Avonmouth Bridge. A303 Andover. Off-peak lane closures and full overnight closures between A3057 and Barwell, Works and temporary

MIDLANDS AND EAST ANGLIA A38 south of Derby. Southern A6 near M1, J24. Roadworks Great Ponton. Lane

A134 Sudbury; single lane. M5 J2. Major works. NORTH A1M J63, 50mph speed limit. M53 J2. Only one lane. M1 J34-35. Down to two lanes

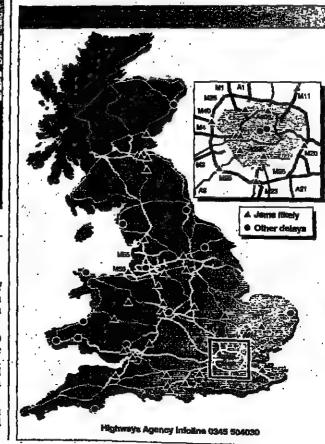
with 50mph limit. M1 J47. Major works with lane **SCOTLAND** A937 Montroee. Works and restrictions in both directions

M8 J2. Lane closures on mundabout. As Princes Street, Edinburgh closed Eastbound. AS2 Tay Road Bridge. Works and lane closures. A90 between Errol and St Matters One law. A77 Symington. Southbound lane closed just north of the

A482 Upper Aberaeron Bridge A48 Carmarthen: Temporary lights and lane restrictions. Penhow. Temporary lights. A4076 Milford Haven. Tem-Contration between

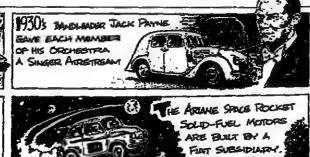
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AUTOFAX by David Long and Les Evans

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VW's Mexican resistance

■ VOLKSWAGEN is warning that it does not approve of Beetles imported from Mexico. The company says that South American versions do not meet European regulations, although

they can enter Britain as personal imports. ■ BRIAN Rossiter found a presidential note in his £22,000 Jeep Cherokee, the two millionth off the production line. The Aberdeen oilman found a message in his glovebox from Gene M. Smith, a Chrysler worker, who described how Bill Clinton had sat in Brian's Jeep at the plant in Toledo, Ohio, and enclosed a newspaper cutting with an account of the visit.

■ THE PRICE of a driving test is up from £28.50 to £31 from April I, the first increase for two years. But the AA warns that all new drivers have to spend £15 on the theory test as well.

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的现在分词 特尔克尔特的特征

Vaughan Freeman on a roundabout solution to a couple's parking problems

Cars that go for a spin in the drive

titanic hi-fi turntable and an outsize Lazy Susan - the sort of thing usually seen rotating on the table in a Chinese restaurant is the answer to Alec

Wheeler's parking diffculties, It may not be up to Euro-Disney proportions, and no youngsters would be prepared to queue hours to enjoy the ride, but the ingenious personalised roundabout has finally solved a problem that has plagued Alec for more

Alec and his wife, Juliet, keep a classic all-white Triumph Stag convertible, a VW Golf and a Fiat Panda, in their garage, a converted bern at their home in the historic and

beautiful East Sussex village of Ditchling. Despite the quaint appeal of the village, at the foot of the South Downs, Ditchling is not impervious to rush-hour traffic as motorists pour way to and from surrounding main

roads. At weekends dug and the turnis-and during holidays car- ble positioned, mounted on 15 bound sightseers swell the traffic, making matters even more difficult for the locals.

All of which presents severe problems for all residents in the village, none more so than for the Wheelers. The entrance or than moving house says to their drive and garage is directly on the High Street. Their drive is about 70ft long. but because it is narrow and lined on both sides by brick walls, it would be impossible to do a three, four or even eight-point turn.

The result of this accident of architecture has long been that the Wheelers can either drive their cars into their garage nose first, but then have to reverse down the drive and backwards across a stream of traffic, or balt the traffic, and trickily reverse off the road

Now a motorised, lift diameter steel turntable has proved

Heath Robinson- the answer. It goes at leisurely one revolution per minute, via a system of hydraufics and a Terylene drive belt. It is possible to motor nose first straight off the road and on to the drive, then on to the turntable. Either a remote control device similar to that from a television set or a wallmounted button is then used to operate the turntable and turn it through 180 degress so that the car is facing the right way to drive out toto the road

again. Alec, a retired dentist, says: "I had the idea of installing a turntable 23 years ago, but for some reason I got the measurements wrong and thought there would not be enough room between the walls."

Two years ago, when a fresh set of measurements were taken, It was it was realised that the idea would work, and the cheaper Wheelers set about finding their turnthan Brian Booker at the moving Alresford, Hamp shire-based Car house Parking Solutions.

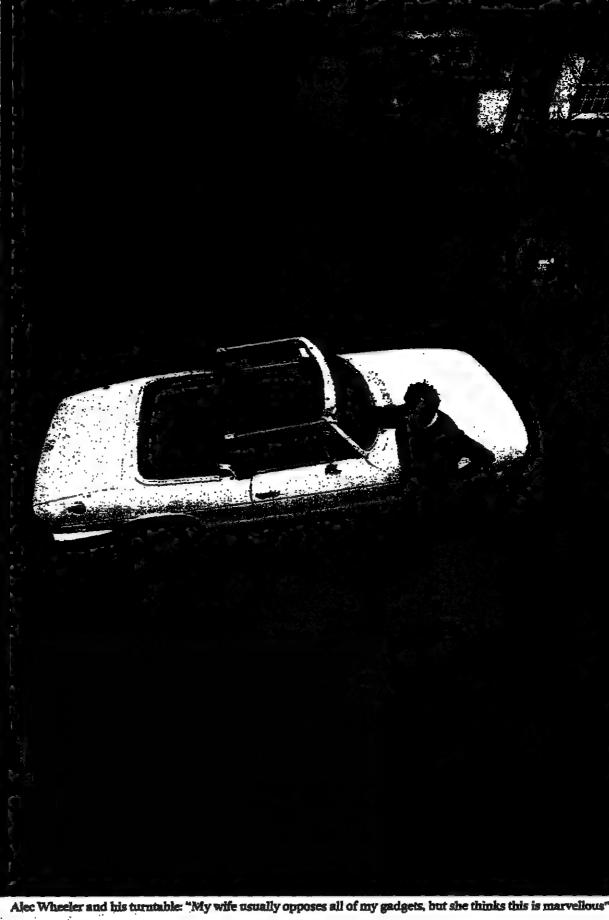
A circular pit was

sealed-for-life bearings. The whole thing sits flush to the ground, and is powered by an electric motor sunk into the garage floor. The total cost of around £7.000 was a for cheap-

The Stag is our longest car at about 13ft and there is 9ins to spare. We didn't feel it was an extravagant amount of money, and if we do ever decide to move, we feel the turntable will make it easier to sell. My wife usually opposes all of my gadgets, but she thinks this is marvellous."

It does not take long apparently to get the "feel" of driving on the turntable, and knowing when all four wheels are on it and the car in place, before starting the slow 180 degree

Booker says: "Apart from it being an offence to reverse out



Alec Wheeler and his turntable: "My wife usually opposes all of my gadgets, but she thinks this is marvellous"

on to a classified road, the last thing anyone wants to do is to back out from their drive into traffic when it is raining or their children are kicking up

in the back." As well as powered turntables, Car Parking Solutions also builds manual versions costing from £4,000. With

these, the car is driven on, but instead of a motor, the owner has to hop out and push the car round by hand, which is not as daunting an operation

as it might sound. "It only takes a force of around 30lbs to start the turntable revolving with a car on it, and once it is moving a anyone it will be brought to a

force of only 10lbs needs to be applied to keep it going," says

At so slow a speed, the turning car does not have the chance to build up unstoppable amounts of energy, which means that if the vehicle bumps up against anything or

halt without doing any damage to itself or anything that is

We have installed them in London, York, Winchester, Guernsey, Banbury and Bris-tol," says Booker. "They work really well." Car Parking Solutions: 01962 73:710

Gold bullion will do nicely Kevin Eason finds a car firm that avoids exchange rate complications

That's £18,300.



The Marlin: deep-down instincts of an English sports can

for car buyers confused by the row over ecus, exchange rates and the abolition of the pound, one British company has devised a timeless solution — pay in gold. Marlin Engineering is inviting customers to forget about currency exchanges and offer to pay for its handmade sports cars in gold bullion.

The novel answer to confusion over the future of the pound is yet to catch on, but the company, based in Crediton, near Exeter in Devon, has already circulated foreign buyers telling them that the world's oldest item of exchange will do nicely. The current cost of a Marlin Hunter sports car is about £18,300 — or 87 ounces of gold al current rates.

Terry Matthews, who owns Marlin with her husband, Mark, says: "We have had so many worries over currency exchange and now the confus-ing debate over the future of the pound is causing even more concern for small compenies like ours.

We heard concern from people we met in the United States and decided there must be a way around all of this confusion, which is why we decided to value the cars in gold. Wherever you are in the world, gold has a recognised market price and we will accept gold as well as currency from now on."

Marlin's ten craftsmen make about 30 cars a year with about a dozen sent oversens as far as Australia, Italy, Canada and the US as norts. The 2 plus 2-Hunter is based around Ford components with chassis and bodywork a combination of glass fibre, aluminium and steel, which means the Hunter weighs in at just 750

Driver and passenger are protected by sitting deep in the safety cell of the semimonocoque frame while there are also three-point scat belts. Engine is the 2-litre Ford puts into its Escort RS2000, although Marlin can instal a modified Rover V8 for extra oomph. The Hunter is to be joined later by a new BMWpowered two-seater, also cost-ing about £18,000 and in the tradition of bespoke British sports cars, as the company

sets its sights on expansion. Terry adds: "Of course, we have no idea whether people will take us up on our idea, but we hope it shows that we are an enterprising company which is prepared to take time and trouble and think up new ways of doing business. With nobody seeming to know what will happen to our currency, we need something relatively stable in our lives. We lived with a gold standard for centuries and that is good enough for us."

though is a struggle for tiny carmakers in Britain. Terry and Mark bought Marlin four years ago; even though Marlin was in business for 16 years before that, it was little known and the couple set about building an image which will appeal to those deep-down instincts motorists still have for a traditional English sports car.

"We have had customers cancelling an order for a Lotus Elise to buy a Hunter and a lot of people turn to us instead of buying a Morgan," says Terry. "But it is difficult for a small company to get the word out that we are here.



Terry Matthews: "Gold has a market price everywhere'



Midland Auto Trader Four-Wheel Drive Day: an opportunity to discover your car's capabilities off the road and have fun at the same time

Car 97's mudlark of a-reader offer

Still a chance to get off the road

THERE is still plenty of time for Car 97 readers to win a day out in the glorious mud of East Anglia, even if you don't own a four-wheel-drive vehicle, writes Alan Copps. The Midland Auto Trader Four-Wheel Drive Day, on March , is one of the best-organised and enjoyable events of its

lt's open to anyone who owns an off-road vehicle, but we are offering one lucky in a brand new Land Rover suffered damage. The idea is

provided by Marshalls of Peterborough. The prize also includes accommodation for two and dinners on both Priday and Saturday night at the Haycock Hotel in Wansford, Peterborough. starting point for the speciallyprepared route designed to

test both driver and vehicle. The off-road experience includes steep and rough hill climbs, narrow gulleys and deep water pits, but in eight reader the chance to take part years of use no vehicle has



and other fun events. It is not to give the 4x4 owner a true picture of his car's capability competitive, but there will be in a safe, off-road environment under expert supervision and to provide an entertaining and rewarding day out at the same time. Families are welcome.

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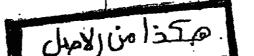
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We'll pay, but must stay in the driving seat

is not what you expect of the great British electorate. But nearly six in ten would do so if they then could see the money spent on curbing pollution and easing con-gestion, says an opinion poll con-ducted for Car 97 as part of our debate on the future of driving.

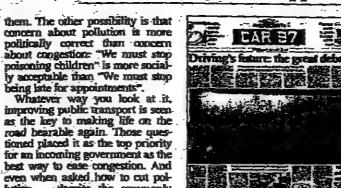
That might sound like a good result for politicians about to launch into a general election campaign, but there is a downside. However much we bemoan our fate as we choke in the latest start-up, we are very reluctant to give up our overwhelming reliance on the car or consider alternative forms of transport for our regular journeys. Of those who don't own or have use of a car at present - our sample

reflected the population at large rather than just drivers — one in three said the car was their preferred mode of transport, far more than any other form.

Carmakers protest, in the face of an avalanche of new legislation, that there is little further they can go in filtering toxins and pollutants from the exhaust of the internal combustion engine. The harmful emissions of a new Ford Fiesta, for example, are said to be 90 per cent less than the same model a decade ago. Yet pollution remains our greatest concern, putting congestion firmly into second place. Perhaps public perception has simply not caught up with manufacturers' claims or perhaps, public opinion simply doesn't believe

Whatever way you look at it, improving public transport is seen as the key to making life on the road bearable again. Those questioned placed it as the top priority for an incoming government as the best way to ease congestion. And even when asked how to cut pollution - despite the commonly shared impression of filthy buses belching black diesel fumes

Commentary by Alan Copps, Editor of Car 97



was put in second place behind the politically difficult idea of subsidising cleaner alternative fuels.

Over the past weeks, Sir George Young, Secretary of State for Transport, Andrew Smith, Labour's spokesman, and Don Foster, the Liberal Democrat whose Traffic Reduction Bill will oblige local authorities to grasp this nettle, have all favoured an integrated transport policy. But they have been vague about how to achieve it. The responses from our sample suggest that there are votes to be won by offering more concrete policies. While the majority of those prestioned, quite sensibly, accepted

that concerns such as crime, health, education and the economy must take priority over transport, a surprising 33 per cent said it was more important than Europe, so heavily talked up as the key issue of

the forthcoming election.

Alternative lifestyles which would reduce the need for many car journeys are growing in impor-tance. Working from home — en-couraged by Nick Reilly, chairman of Vauchall — was seen as the second best way to tackle road congestion, although shopping by computer held less attraction. Here the poll responses echo the thinking of industry leaders. Gary Lubner, managing director of Autoglass which sponsored the poll, said he thought the impact of such changes

had been underestimated by both politicians and public.

"We could achieve our environmental objectives by switching to 'virtual travel'. For nine in ten of us, the car is the main way we get about: see friends, commute to work, travel to shops. Research suggests that by 2010, instead of making 19 car journeys a week on average, we'll make 12 by car and

seven by computer." There was strong support for getting freight off the roads and for keeping cars out of town centres, but little for building more roads or banning cars completely. Despite the professed willingness to pay more in taxes, the most obvious pay-as-you-drive measure - road tolls - met with little enthusiasm.





Blurred visions: spokesmen for the main political parties favour an integrated transport policy, but have been vague about how to achieve it. Our survey suggests there could be votes to be won by offering more concrete policies

It's more urgent than Europe

Better public transport and cutting pollution are top demands in survey

first asked where transport policy should come in the priorities of a government. Respond cuts were given three choices: it more important, equally important or less important than a range of other policies. Crime, the economy, health, education and employment were all regarded as more. important. But a third of those questioned said it was more important than policy on Europe and another 23 per cent ranked it equal in importance. Majorities also rated it

at least as important as policies on industry and defence.
Asked which party's transport policies they most sup-ported, 30 per cent said Labour and 25 per cent Conservative, but there was a high proportion of "Don't knows" at 18 per cent. Ten per cent supported the Liberal Democrats, 7 per cent the Green Party and 6 per cent Friends of the Earth. Three per cent backed the underground protesters in Devon, whose removal from the site of the A30 provement had been widely publicised just before the poll

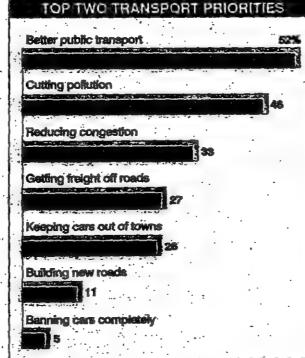
was taken. The leader of those protesters was the most recognised character in the next series of questions when we asked people to name the transport spokesperson for various par-ties. Five per cent correctly named "Swampy", leader of

AUTOGLASS

the protesters, and 3 per cent (26 of the 1,024 people questioned) correctly named Sir. George Young, Secretary of State for Transport. But only one person named each of Andrew Smith (Labour), David Chidgey (Liberal Dent-ocrat) and David Taylor

(Green party)
We then asked people to suggest the top two priorities for the Government's transport policy, a question which highlighted differences between the sexes and age ranges. Improving public transport was given top priority by 34 per cent, but support for it was much stronger among the young and middle aged (between 37 and 42 per cent) man among the over-55s, who might be thought to be more dependent upon it (an average of 23 per cent). The latter age group were much more in favour of getting freight off the roads. Cutting pollution was chosen as first priority by 22 per cent, far more by women (26 per cent)

than men (18 per cent). Regional variations were also strongly marked in an-swers to this question. In London, 52 per cent chose improving public transport, while in Wales only 15 per cent said it should be top priority. There was especially strong



support for cutting pollution in Wales (30 per cent) and the South-East and West Mid-

ands (both 25 per cent). In Landon, reducing congestion was named as top priority by only 8 per cent and keeping cars out of the centre was favoured by only 5 per cent.
Yet congestion figured high
among the concerns of people
in some largely rural areas
such as East Anglia (17 per
cent) and the South-West (16) per cent). It was highest of all in the North-East (21 per cent). Building more roads was given very low priority; only in Scotland did support for it

reach double figures. When the figures were ana-

READERS of Car 97 who want to

continue our Great Debate on road

congestion with the experts can attend the RAC's Centenary Conference, "A Smarter

Way Ahead, on Tuesday at the Common-

wealth Conference Centre, Kensington, London.

Starting at 9.30am, and chaired by John

Humphrys from the BBC's Today pro-

gramme, speakers include Sir George Young the Transport Secretary, his Labour Shadow Andrew Smith, Fiona Reynolds, director of the Council for the Protection of

Rural England and Sir Robert Horton,

chairman of Railtrack. A panel of experts

including Ernie Thompson, the chief execu-

tive of the Society of Motor Manufacturers

and Traders, and Charles Secrett, director of

pay to cut pollution and improve public transport?

How much tax would you

lysed by driving status some remarkable differences appeared. Support for better public transport was highest among company car drivers, 60 per cent of whom put it in their top two priorities and lowest among those who said they did not have a car to use, 46 per cent. When asked how the Government should tackle conges-

tion, better public transport

was again the most popular answer by a long way (77 per cent). The second choice was to

encourage working from

home, favoured by 27 per cent

overall, but by more men (30

per cent) than women (24 per cent). Support for working

Question the RAC's experts

driesson.

from home was especially strong in the East Midlands,

(32 to 36 per cent), but the idea proved unpopular in the rural

Friends of the Earth, will be available to take

Edmund King, the RAC's head of cam-paigns, says: "The audience will include respected academics, industrialists and ex-

perts from the world of transport and the

peris from the word of transport and the environment to help find a way forward for our transport system. Easing congestion on roads and improving public transport to improve personal mobility for us all is one of

the greatest challenges we all face for the millennium. Perhaps this conference will

come up with some answers and contribute in some way to Car 97's Great Debate."

389 8915 on Monday will get free tickets to this conference on how Britain's roads can be

freed of congestion in the next century.

The first 15 readers to ring the RAC on 0171



Recognise them? Andrew Smith, left, and "Swampy"

areas of East Anglia (15 per cent) and the South-West (16 per cent).

There were strong regional variations in all these suggest-Scotland and the North-East

ed remedies. Support for tax-ing lorries varied from 34 per cent in the East Midlands to only 17 per cent in the West Midlands. In fact, the East Midlands seemed particularly keen on taxing people, also giving strongest support to taxing company car drivers (32 per cent) an idea favoured by

only 12 per cent in Wales. Support for introducing road tolls was 16 per cent overall, but went up to 25 per cent in the North-East. It was lowest (at 10 per cent) in the West Midlands, where work has already started on building the North Birmingham relief road, Britain's first pri-

vately-financed toll road. When it came to tackling ollution, the idea of subsidising clean alternative fuels was even more popular than im-proving public transport, attracting of per cent support spread very evenly across all areas. There was also widespread support for more park-and-ride schemes (48 per cent) and stricter penalties for cars that aren't properly serviced (45 per cent).

ALC: HOW TO PHOKE COMPLEXION TO

Better public transport

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Taxing company can

Building more roads

Road tolls

Encourage telephone shopping

Taxing lorries

国际,1000人共享的企业,1000人共享

Encouraging work from home

Asked how much extra tax they would be prepared to pay each week to solve transport problems, 37 per cent said they wouldn't pay any more and 4 per cent didn't know. That left a total of 59 per cent prepared to pay more, 40 per cent choosing up to £1.99 extra, 15 per cent up to £4.99, 3 per cent £5-£10 and 1 per cent £10-plus. Willingness to pay was greater among the young and evenly distributed

across the country. However, when given a choice of methods to pay for improvements, the greatest number (45 per cent) suggest ed that National Lottery money should be used.

Asked which factor, apart from price, was most impor-tant in their choice of car, 36 per cent said economy, 15 per cent comfort and 11 per cent performance. Only 2 per cent named safety and another 2 per cent reliability.

The poll, based on a representative sample of adults, was conducted by telephone by Audience Selection from February 7-9. It was sponsored by Autoglass, Britain's leading



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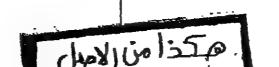
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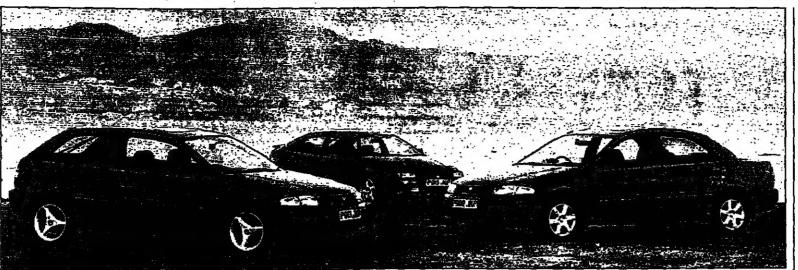
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WHAT'S NEW, AND WHAT'S USED, ON THE FORECOURTS



Mazda's new 323s: averagely brisk, averagely refined, and averagely entertaining, the company seems to believe that mass market equals bland

f you work for Mazda in Britain there's every reason to be optimistic, writes Helen Mound. Sales last year were 49 per cent up on 1995 and customers are among the most loval.

But when comparing the new 323 to the Audi A3 and Volkswagen Golf, Chris Owens, marketing director for Mazda Cars UK, is possibly over-optimistic. For the 323 has a long way to go before it can compete with sophisticated German hatchbacks. It's more a rival for models such as the Vauxhall Astra, Renault Megane, Peugeot 306 and

Ford Escort The 323 is Mazda UK's topselling model and the new version is spearheading the company's attempt to break out of the niche markets it has won through models such as the rotary engined RX-7 and

■ A TRENDY supermini There are problems though, that matches bags of room of poor seats, heavy steering inside with small outside dimensions, the Fiat Punto, launched in 1994, is stylish. quiet and handles well, re-

ports CAP Black Book. There is an excellent boot for shopping, plus good interior room, and the controls are well laid out. Look for cars featuring the optional six-speed gearbox. Best buy is the 94 M-reg 55 SX five-door for some

OFFICE ADDRESS:-

at low speed and a disappoint ingly choppy ride in town, while build quality is not quite up to the Micra/Corsa standard. The Punto comes with a

adorable little MX-5 sports cars. It wants to double its-

I per cent share of the British

market. Lest year it sold 9,488 323s, although the five-door was the only version available.

Now there are three: the three-

door hatchback with 1.3 or 1.5

litre engines is brand new. The

1.5-litre four-door saloon is a

restyled version of the old

model. And the five-door hatchback, expected to remain

the most popular version, has received a handful of changes

(such as a high-level brake light) and is offered with 1.5,

1.8 or 2-litre V6 engines. There

are four trim levels and the 1.8

has the option of an automatic

warning: Do not on any account lose your master ignition key as it will cost hundreds of pounds to replace.
The other worry about

as is one of safety, around 5,000. Significated in the recently

TRANSFERS

ROAD TEST

Easily forgotten

Mazda 323 Engines: Four-cylin-der 1324cc gives 75bhp; V6 1995cc 147bhp.

Performance: (1324cc) 102mph, 0-62mph in 13.3 sec; (V6):130mph, 9.4 sec

Economy: (1324ce) Urban 29.7mpg; extra urban 45.6mpg; combined 38.2mpg. (V6) 21.2mpg; 37.2mpg; 29.lmpg.

Price: £11,360-£17,860.

FORECOURT

published Transport Re-

search Laboratory tests as part of the European New Car

The Punto offered average

protection in the crash tests.

scoring above similar sized

cars such as the Rover 100

(formerly the Metro), but it did not do as well as the Ford

In a head-on crash, the

Fiesta and spe VW: Poin.

Assessment Programme.

Take a look inside the new 323 and Mazda's problem is immediately evident. The company appears to believe that mass market equals ordinary, even bland. Sitting behind the wheel of any version is a staggeringly forgettable

experience. Mazda came up with the cute two-seater that started the roadster revolution and spent millions of yen developing a car door that makes the right noise when it's slammed; surely it's able to produce a hatchback with a few features to stand out from the crowd?

The exception to the "boring is best" theme of the new 323s is the five-door hatchback, a

driver's head was moderately

well protected, though the

results found a serious risk of

foot and ankle injuries. In a

side impact, the Punto protected the abdomen area well

but not the chest area as

■ The Seat Ibiza (1994-97)

matches the build quality of

its German VW parent with

attractive looks, good interior space and value for money.

The ride is fairly harsh, and

cars with smaller engines do

effectively.

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coupé ish design dating from the late Eighties when Mazda was feeling braver. All versions boast high spe-cification — that old chestnut

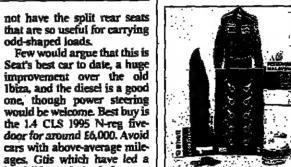
from Japanese manufacturers, "no personality or style, but loads of equipment". Driver airbag, engine immobiliser, power steering, central lock-ing and electric windows are standard across the range; as is a three-year warranty and

Mazda European Assistance. The new 323s drive the way they're styled - uninspiringly. They're averagely brisk, averagely refined, and averagely entertaining, apart, that is, from the ZXi, which has enough power in its engine and poise in its chassis (both unchanged from the "old" model) to stimulate keen drivers. Marketing will rely heavi-ly on it to infer excitement in the rest of the range.

odd-shaped loads.

hard life, and check for cam

wear on the I-litte models.



Lots to bid for at Brooklands

SPARE PARTS

■ CHEVROLET'S Corvette is coming to Britain this year. Produce a 173mph top speed from a 5.7-litre V8, the Mk5 Corvette will cost around £35,000 from General Motors' dealers Bauer and Millett in Manchester (0161-83) 7447).

TOYOTA has gone all "energetic" on us, according to its latest news. The car company, now big in Britain, is sponsoring a rock tour of a dozen countries by Phil Collins, the small but perfectly formed ex-Genesis singer.

■ TOURING is the theme of a campaign to prevent theft of 5,000 caravans worth £12 million annually. Advice comes from the RAC Camping and Caravan Great Britain and Ireland guide, which also offers help on maintenance, and lists nearly 3,000 sites with addresses and quality ratings. The guide is available, price E7.99, from bookshops.

M ENGINE bits which took Michael Schumacher to grand prix victories go on sale at auction on March ! at the Brooklands Museum, Weybridge, Surrey. Raising money for the Motor and Allied Trades Benevolent Fund, the sale includes 10 pistons from Schumacher's 1996 Ferrari Fl car, the front wing from Martin Brundle's Jordan, Mika Hakkinen's McLaren race overalls and UK Touring Car



champion Will Hoy's helmet.

USED CAR BRIEF

VOLVO 200
Safety sells cars, at least that is what Volvo has believed for years. Whe
the Volvo 300 Series was leuriched in 1976, it was thought supremely
duti despite having side impact beams and crush zones years before
other cars. The first 343 used a Ranguit 1.4-litre engine and three-spee
Varionatic continuous variable transmission likened to rubber-band power. The range includes three and five-door hatchbacks, salo 1.7 and 2-litre petrol engines and four and five speed manual gr



LOOK FOR
Cars from 1985 which
use the 1.7-litre
Renaut engine,
offering much better
performance, while the 2-litre cars,
especially the fuel-injected
versions, are good for towing, if
thirsty. Power steering came as

thirsty. Power steering came as standard on GLT and GLE



55-year-old professionel, male or temala, fiving in Winchester with full no claims. 238 a year fully comprehensive. A 22-year-old male, with a year's no claims living in south London, pays 2554, a similar famale £458. of the Toyota Corolla, Renault 19, and First Tipo.

REPLACEMENT (Prices Include VAT):
Clunch steembly
£210; full exhaust £95;
front damper £165; rear damper
£100; front brakepads £60;
strenstor £125; starter motor

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hatch, £1,700 for a hatch, £1,700 for a 1989 G-reg 340 1.4-fitre tirree-door hatch automatic, £1,600 for a 1988 5-reg 340 GL 1.4-five door, £1,900 for a 1989 G-reg 1.7-fitre tive-door, £2,300 for a 1989 F-reg 380 GLT 2-fitre four door, and £2,850 for a 1989 F-reg 360 GLE 2-fitre

Boringly the butt of many an anti-Volvo loke. Early cars are now old indeed and

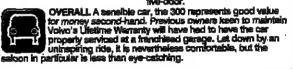
Variomatics, which take a lot of getting used to and can be expensive to keep

can be prone to rust, especially around the wings, tailgate and door pillars. Seware too problet with the head gasket (overheating), worn engine mountings and falling water put

going as the system's drive belts are known to wear and even snap. The 343 and 345 automatics in

articular are stow. Cars without ower steering can be a handful or town driving and parking.

INSURANCE Cover from AA Insurance (0800 444777) on a 1969 1,4-life 340 costs a contractional male



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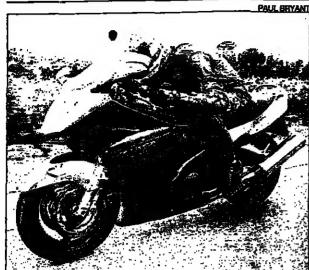
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Smooth Blackbird and wild Valkyrie

Roland Brown finds preconceptions

of Honda's new flagship bikes off target



Blackbird: latest incarnation of the Japanese superbike

t is difficult to imagine a more diverse pair of motorbikes than Honda's flagships. The CBRIIOOXX Super Blackbird is the latest incarnation of the traditional Japanese superbike, complete with four-cylinder engine, aerodynamic bodywork and fearsome performance. In contrast, the F6C is a huge, six-cylinder cruiser with lots of chrome, and armchair riding position.

By superbike standards the CBR1100XX is quite heavy, at Anyone contemplating buying a big Honda should have no difficulty deciding which to choose, one might imagine Serioes motorcyclists would surely look no further than the rapid and refined CBR, leaving the overweight F6C, built mainly for the American market, to those more interested in a high profile than high performance. But riding them shows such preconceptions to be wide of the mark.

There is no doubt that speed addicts will be irresistibly drawn to CBRIIOOXX. The Super Blackbird is powered by an 1137cc. 16-valve in-line four engine that produces no less than 162bhp. Combined with wind-cheating fairing, this gives the Blackbird a top speed of over 175mph, edging it ahead of Kawasaki's ZZ-RI 100 to the title of world's fastest production bike.

The Blackbird is a very smooth and refined machine, and in many respects works well as a sporty yet practical superbike. Like any Honda it is docile and manageable at low revs. Above 5,000rpm the engine's wild side takes over, hurling the bike forward with breathtaking acceleration.

223kg, but its rigid aluminium frame and excellent suspension combine to give light steering, stable handling and a comfortable ride. I was not particularly impressed by Honda's Dual-CBS braking system, which applies balanced force to front and rear discs when either the hand lever or foot pedal is activated. Although powerful, the system gives a rather vague feel at the

hand level. The mirrors are clear and the seat is broad and wellpadded. But although the handlebars pull the rider forward to give a fairly upright and roomy riding position, being tail, I found that the low screen



What the Americans call the Valkyrie is Honda's attempt to build the world's first high-performance cruiser, offering a huge six-cylinders with lots of chroine and armchair riding position

generated annoying wind tur-bulence. Along with the curiously anonymous styling hardly enlivened by colour options of grey, black or dark red - the result was a bike less exciting to ride than its spinetingling specification had led

Precisely the opposite was true of the considerably less streamlined F6C, whose vast excessive weight and gaudy styling suggested a twowheeled burger bar rather than a serious motorcycle. The P6C is built in America (where it is known, rather more imaginatively, as the Valkyrie) and is Honda's attempt to build the world's first highperformance cruiser. Its engine is based on the

1520cc, flat-six unit from Honda's legendary Gold Wing giant tourer. Although tuned slightly to produce a maximum of 100bhp, the shaft-drive motor remains hugely flexible. The P6C accelerates smoothly and strongly from very low revs and puris along effortlessly at 70mph with less than 3,000rpm showon its white-faced

Such flexibility makes the Honda, with its raised handle-

bars, exposed riding position and forward-set footrests, a very pleasant bike for gentle

ou barely need to use the five-speed gearbox in normal use; just flick into top, sit back and enjoy the ride. But the big bike will go faster if you ask it, stretching your arms as it heads towards a top speed of over 120mph. Despite the F6C's low seat,

you're aware of every one of its 310kg at a standstill. But the Honda feels much lighter on the move, and its suspension is

good enough to allow spirited cornering. Unlike many cruisers, the F6C also has excellent: brakes and tyres. Riders seeking performance

or with long distances to cover would still be better off on the Super Blackbird which, at £9,495, is priced competitively against its main Japanese rivals. But despite its awesome 175mph top speed, the CBR1i00XX feels bland alongside the P6C. At EIL,980, the big cruiser is expensive, but its unique character, mighty engine and improbable agility make for a much more enter-

BLACKBIRD

Engine: Fourcylinder, 16-vaive, 1137cc produces 162bhp at 10,000rpm. Transmission: Sixspeed gearbox. Chain final drive.

speed 178mph, 0-60mph in 2.6 seconds. Price: £9,495.

Insurance group: 16 (with Norwich Union).

VALKYRIE

Engine: Six-cylinder. 12-valve, 1520cc produces 100bbp at 6000rpm. Transmission: Fivespeed gearbox. Shaft final drive. Performance:

Maximum speed 128mph, 0-60mph in 3.4 seconds. Price: £11,950. Insurance group: 14 (with Norwich Union).

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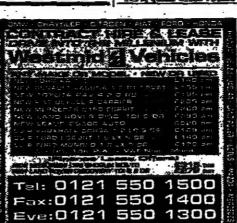
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Touring with BMW: The firm is modest to the point of apologetic about load-carrying powers, preferring to stress performance, handling, road-holding and, vitally, image and prestige

Touring the wide open spaces

injection with turbo charger

Transmission: Five-speed

Performance: 143bhp at

4600rpm. 0-60mph in 10.4

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tailor-made suit with large, elegant pockets is how BMW describes its all-new .5 Series touring, but few suits have pockets large enough to

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Despite such a carrying capacity, BMW insists its touring (small t only) is emphatically not an estate car. Instead, it is an extended, more practical version of its acclaimed 5 Series saloon, but happens to compete in the estate car sector.

Indeed, BMW says that for all the touring's shopping, wine and furni-ture-carrying and trailer hauling capacity, its load-lugging ability is not even the decisive factor behind its customers buying the touring rather than the saloon. Nor will its customers be parting with substantial amounts of money (from £27,000 up to £44.420) just because the touring is trendy. It is, concedes the company, new, stylish and cleverly designed -

but not trendy. Klaus Faust. BMW chassis special-

NISSAN

ist, says. The BMW touring is a BMW saloon, offering an even wider range of practical benefits and val-ues. Within our touring concept as a whole, the transport capacity for the car is a significant, but not the only decisive factor. What counts most is design, dynamic performance, motoring comfort and value."

The Bayarian car firm is modest to the point of apologetic about the touring's load-carrying powers, preferring instead to play the BMW's longest and strongest suit of sporting performance, superb handling and road-holding, as well as, vitally, the

with the larger car accounting for a quarter of all the 5 Series cars sold. The new car is identical to the saloon all the way back to the central B pillar. where it melts stylishly into the nonestate rear that is only about lin longer than the saloon that spawned it.

BMW 525 TOURING Engine: 25-litre, sixcylinder electronic diesel

and intercooler.

figure) 35.8mpg.

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occupants, power steering, anti-

marque's image and prestige.

The previous 5 Series touring sold 115,000 units between 1992 and 1996. Should the touring buyer actually

load area can take objects up to 6ft lin long. An ingenious loading surface which pulls out 24ins beyond the rear bumper allows heavy objects weighing up to 170lbs to be loaded on to it. The moveable floor then slides back into the car without any risk of slipped disc or pulled muscle. Crucially, thanks to a redesign of the rear suspension, the load area is now completely flat. The car comes with self-levelling automatic pneumatic suspension as standard, so that it

always rides level. On the move, the 25-litre turbo-diesel is supremely flexible. The five-speed manual gearbox seems an overdesigned luxury since the temp-tation is to get by with just third and lifth gears, so versatile is the engine. On the move it is as quiet as the very quiet BMW petrol cars. This is a sophisticated diesel engine that puts the lie to all the long-held prejudices

about noisy, rough diesels. But it is the 2.8- litre petrol cars that truly lend credence to BMW's claim that they produce sporting cars for the driving enthusiast. The bandling is wonderful, sure and confidence-boosting. Over long, winding German roads the car swept on without demur, and on dry, empty auto-bahns, speeds of well over 120mph could be maintained without raising

The 525 tds and 528i SE (which sells from £32,496 on the road) go on sale on April 17, and BMW is clearly confident that would-be onwers will be happy to pay a price premium of at least £1,500 for the touring over the saloon. Further developments of the touring range will arrive in May with the launch of the 520i and 523i, and in August the £44,420 range-topping 540i goes on sale.

The 5 Series saloon has already been acclaimed as one of the best-ever cars of its kind; the touring is a worthy addition to the range. Stylish, brilliantly engineered - and a worry for Audi, Mercedes and Volvo.

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Name that tune and your car's CD will play it

Honda's new Civic lets you voice your choice, reports Stuart Birch

ust say the word and the sound of Bach, Brahms or the Beatles will fill the interior of the Honda Civic 5-

Ronda UK is claiming a world first by putting a voice-activated CD autochanger on its new car options list. Call up Oasis, and in precisely 8.9 seconds they will be pulsing through the speakers.

The system, which adds about £250 to a standard autochanger, is not a gimmick, says Pioneer, who have designed and produced it. "It's the first of its kind in the world," says Gareth Gibbard,

the company's UK automotive mananger. "We believe it represents a substantial contribution to reducing driver workload, and so will help to make driving

A small microphone like that used for a handsfree telephone is placed on the sun visor or door pillar and the driver simply states the com-

poser, orchestra or singer of choice. For good measure, Honda is also offering the latest 50 CD autochanger with the improved Civic range, although the voice activation system will also operate with six or 12-disc systems.

ning. Pioneer is already working on follow-up versions that will allow individual track selection, and later this year it is likely that voice activation will also operate new-generation radios. "It will be possible to request station changes, volume variation and even added bass or treble," says Gibbard.

He believes other car manu-

But all this is just a begin-

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facturers may also offer Pioneer's CD voice activation system on new models. It will soon be available as an aftermarket fit in Europe. The system is simple to use the driver programs it by speaking into the microphone, giving names to the CDs that have been loaded. The system will then accept the command; if it does not, a shorter title

must be used. If a driver develops a cold and the system has difficulty understanding, there is a manual selection facility and the operation is multi-lingual, able to cope with English, French. German

and Japanese. "Voice activation for CDs has been available as an after-market item in Japan since the end of last year, but we believe Honda's decision to put it on the new car options list for the Civic is unique," Gibbard

As for the new Civic, announced Just speak to today, it has been given a lot of

changes, Honda UK direction Ken Keir says he believes buyers need more choice. The L5i model gets added power and is a delight to drive; there is a huxurious 1.6 ES with airconditioning and leather upholstery and a new range topper, the near-140mph 1.8

The taut and agile VTi s very quick, with an engine rev limt of 8,000. But is a shade noisy when cruising quickly and I would have liked a sixth gear. Of course, fitted with the Pioneer system, I could just say "Madonna" and she would be there in 8.9 seconds. eclipsing all mechanical noise with the strains of Evita.

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